SW resident

December 2018

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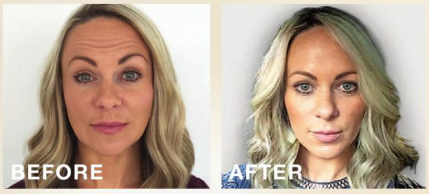

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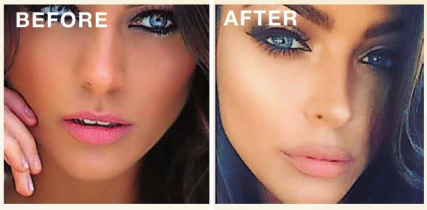

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DECEMBER 2018

Letter from the EDITOR

A lot of the defining memories of Christmas for me, and the huge run up to the festive period beforehand, is heading to the theatre. It's perhaps not surprising, given that theatre was a massive part of my childhood and therefore I have always loved it, but there is something extra special about performance at Christmas.

Theatre at this time evokes such nostalgia, warm and fuzzy feelings and envelopes you in those magical moments that the festive period is all about. It's a brilliant way of getting the family to spend time with one another, giggling in each other's company and remembering that being together is what Christmas is all about.

Perfectly suiting, then, that this month we delve into just what makes the traditional pantomime so special for children and families. I've always felt it is so much more than just 'he's behind you', and it seems that people are starting to realise this too. Theatre503 in Battersea is really championing the idea that, although a traditional form of entertainment, pantomime can move with the times and I for one am really excited to see this. Turn to page 66 to read more about it.

There are a wealth of other types of events and treats being put on around the *SW Resident* patch, and it seems that we are all in for an absolute treat when it comes to getting the family out and about together. From Christmas markets, to the wonderful spectacle of Christmas at Kew and craft events, there really is something for everyone out there to get all excited in time for the big day. I will definitely be making time for the Crafty Fox Market in Brixton, where I'm hoping I can find some unique gifts for those hard to buy for in my family.

I'm a firm believer that Christmas should be more about family time together at activities such as the theatre, or the joining of community at events such as carol concerts, than simply the idea of solely giving and receiving. However, I do like to make sure that I spend time on finding gifts for people that are a little bit different. Our Christmas Gift Guides this year should help you do the same, as they are full to the brim of different, unique ideas for those who you want to spoil. Turn to page 53 to get inspired!

Happy, happy Christmas all!

Bethan

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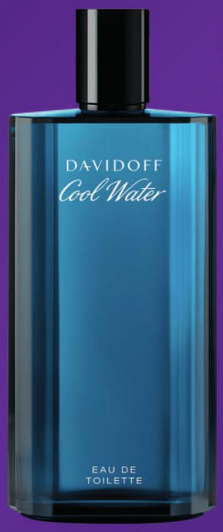

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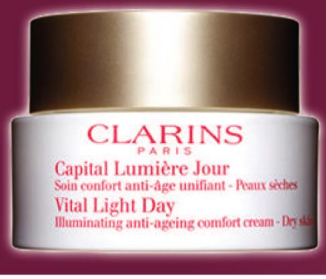

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CULTURE

MARK DOUET

FAIRYTALE CHRISTMAS

This year's Christmas show from the Rose Theatre features a reimagining of the beloved Brothers Grimm fairytale *Hansel & Gretel* directed by Rosie Jones. In a new festive version written by Ciaran McConville with music and lyrics by Eamonn O'Dwyer, we meet a young Hansel and Gretel as they race to save their town from an evil witch's curse in time for Christmas. The production features young actors from the Rose Youth Theatre alongside professional actors including Devon Black, Vanessa Fisher and Elliot Fitzpatrick. Running from 6 December until 6 January, the show looks set to be a big hit with the whole family.

24-26 High Street, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1HL; rosetheatrekingston.org

AROUND AND ABOUT

The finest in cultural events and new launches

CANDLELIT CHORUS

Fulham Palace will be awash with the sound of music this month with two carol concerts planned in its beautiful grounds. On 2 December, you can join The Friends of Fulham Palace for an afternoon of carol singing with the Addison Singers in the palace's Tudor Courtyard. If that's not enough, on 12 December from 7pm-9pm, there will be traditional carols in the palace's Victorian Chapel. For £16 you'll be treated to singing led by the Fulham Camerata choir and light seasonal refreshments in front of the fire after the concert.
Bishop's Avenue, Fulham, SW6 6EA; fulhampalace.org

Festive tradition

It's that time of year again when seasonal favourite *The Nutcracker* is back on at the Royal Opera House. Performed by The Royal Ballet, this Christmas treat is back at the iconic venue from 3 December until 15 January on the main stage. It's the perfect opportunity for the whole family to fall in love with the spectacle of world class ballet once again by watching the wonderful dancers perform Peter Wright's much-loved choreography. It follows the traditional tale of Clara who is given an enchanted Nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve and finds a magical adventure waiting for her downstairs as the clock strikes midnight.
Bow Street, WC2E 9DD; roh.org.uk

On the run

This month, Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity is challenging Londoners to swap their sofas for Santa suits and join thousands of fun-runners to take on the London Santa Dash. The optional 5k or 10k fun run takes place around Clapham Common on Sunday 9 December with all money raised by participants going to the GOSH charity. The event is open to children and adults alike and the runners taking part will be given a free Santa Claus suit to wear as they make their way around the course. There will be a Samba band en route to keep their spirits up by playing festive hits to keep them going and, at the end, participants can relax with a mulled drink and mince pie in the event village. The funds raised will help seriously ill children from across the UK cared for at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and their families too. You can enter the run for £20 for adults and £12 for children under 16.

gosh.org/santadash

Skates on

THE LAST SUPPER art gallery will be hosting an exhibition featuring The Skateroom and their latest collection of artwork on skateboards this month. The exhibition will be showcasing Jean Jullien, Jeremyville and Steven Harrington. Continuing with The Skateroom's business model, along with the artists and THE LAST SUPPER, 20% of the turnover of sales will be donated to the NGO, Make Life Skate for their latest project called 'Suli Skatepark.'

THE LAST SUPPER art gallery, 42 Webbs Road, SW11 6SF; the-lastsupper.com

A GOOD CAUSE

This month the Richmond Art Society will be presenting its Winter Art Exhibition at the Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College on Saturday 1 December, and then running from Monday 3 until Sunday 9 December from 10am to 5pm. You can expect to see paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, art and ceramics on display from artists like Laura Parker, Jude Wild and Nataliya Zozulya. During the exhibition, a special raffle will be held in aid of the local charity REACT – a charity for the Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness. Raffle tickets (at £5 each) will be sold throughout the week and all the funds raised by the Raffle will be donated.

Richmond & Hillcroft Adult Community College, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RE; richmondartsociety.com

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

This month the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon is putting on two exciting Christmas plays for all of the family. *Winter Wood* is a tale of friendship and bravery that sees Pig and Goat discover they're being fattened up for a winter feast. They decide to run away to find a little house in the winter woods, where they can live happily together. Along their journey they meet Goose, Hare and Cockerel, who offer their special skills to help build their new home. From the mind of Jan Blake, the show will be running until 17 February for young children.

The much-loved family theatre will also be hosting a new adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows* by Toby Hulse. It follows Kenneth Grahame's classic tale of Mole, Toad, Ratty and their friends as they find themselves caught in a new adventure. It will be brought to life with music, songs and the usual Polka Theatre magic.

240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB; polkatheatre.com

CREDITS: FULHAM PALACE BY JONATHON VINES; THE NUTCRACKER BY TRISTRAM KENTON; SANTA RUN BY ASH KNOTEK; THE LAST SUPPER GALLERY IMAGE BY JEAN JULLIEN; 'THE BOWL': COURTESY THE SKATEROOM; RICHMOND ART SOCIETY BY JUDE WILD; IN THE WINTER WOOD BY MICHAEL WHARLEY AND REBECCA PITT

En pointe

From The Royal Ballet to Strictly, take a trip down memory lane with Dame Darcey Bussell's latest book

Words: FAY WATSON

If Darcey Bussell had gotten her way as a young girl, she would have given up on ballet. It's a pretty inconceivable thought for a woman who became one of the most sought after dancers of The Royal Ballet as well as a household name on *Strictly Come Dancing,* but Bussell is open about how much she struggled after joining The Royal Ballet School later than many of her peers at the age of 13.

'I felt I'd made a big mistake,' she tells me. 'You don't want to be a defeatist but I did think "oh my goodness this isn't for me, there's just no way I can catch up with everybody else", but fortunately I was quite stubborn and I didn't have a lot of choices – and I really wanted to make it work.'

Born in London in 1969 to Australian businessman John Crittle and Andrea Williams, Bussell began dancing at five-years-old as an accompaniment to her gymnastics. 'I wasn't passionate about it,' she admits. 'I'm sure other children would get excited, but I just wasn't really into dance.' As she kept on, however, she explains that dedication kicked in and she was determined to succeed.

She then began her professional career at the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet before becoming the youngest principal dancer at The Royal Ballet in 1989, taking on every major role from Odette in *Swan Lake* to the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, before retiring in 2007, aged 38.

'There's a lot of hard work that goes into it'

While this extraordinary career can sometimes be forgotten when we're used to seeing Bussell on our screens weekly on *Strictly*, the release of her latest book, *Darcey Bussell: Evolved,* is bringing all these memories to the forefront. The glossy pages are a nostalgic trip through her career in a collection of beautiful photos and anecdotes from her time as a fresh-faced student right up to becoming a Dame in May of this year. Beyond being a career retrospective, the book also

PHOTO BY ARTHUR ELGORT, VOGUE 1989

showcases her as a bit of a rebel in the traditional world of ballet.

Through photo shoots and campaigns shot by everyone from Annie Leibovitz for GAP to Arthur Elgort for British *Vogue*, Bussell led the change in making ballet more commercial. 'It was very hard to make that transition seamlessly and not be too confronting to the traditionalists,' she admits, adding, 'but I think it was valuable that classical ballet was seen more commercially and made more accessible.' Indeed when we watch the end product of ballet it can seem an impenetrable perfect world. But what this book does wonderfully is convey the amount of work that has gone on behind the scenes in her career. One notable example was when she spent seven months preparing for her performance at the 2012 Olympics Closing Ceremony that lasted just three minutes. 'There's a lot of hard work that goes into it,' she explains about the images she showcases in the book. 'I wanted to tell the story behind how the shots were created. I think it is also important that people don't have a glossy image of your life.'

It can be a difficult line to tread when you're in the public eye as much as Bussell has

been. Especially in her role on *Strictly Come Dancing*, which experiences an exorbitant amount of publicity during its annual 13 week run. This isn't lost on Bussell who admits she considered that side of it when she joined the show, even initially turning it down when it first came her way after a guest judge appearance. 'I was very wary of signing up for such a big show and I hadn't had that much experience at all in television,' she admits. 'But I couldn't be happier now because I didn't appreciate how enjoyable it would be.'

In particular, it is the ethos behind the show that Bussell really treasures. 'It's brought social dance back into a lot of people's lives again which we'd lost. It is really important to not forget how valuable that is, it changes how people feel, it connects people,' she smiles. And it's something that's incredibly close to her heart, spending a lot of her time doing outreach in schools with her dance fitness initiative Diverse Dance Mix and presenting documentaries for the BBC.

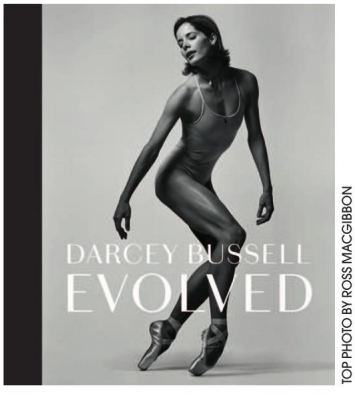
'I think we live in a pretty fabulous part of town'

There's evidently no slowing her down, but to balance almost every member of the British public who owns a TV recognising her on the street, she tells me she lives a quiet life with her family in south west London. 'I've been a Londoner all my life and I feel incredibly fortunate to live in such a great city that has so much variety from entertainment to sport,' she beams when we chat about the area. 'I think everything is there if you're prepared to find it. I think we live in a pretty fabulous part of town.' She especially loves exploring the pubs and green spaces, walking around Putney with her dogs Lolli and Pop, and cycling along the river into Richmond.

It strikes me when we're speaking as she heads back home after a busy day darting around London filming and meeting other commitments that Bussell is a woman who makes the most of each opportunity she faces. It's a trait which saw her push through the pain as a young dancer when she wanted to give up, and one which has followed her through innumerable successes since.

Fittingly, then, her book ends with a section entitled 'To be continued', which she tells me is less about us anticipating another literary outing from her, but more about her reluctance to limit opportunities. 'I never want to put a final sign off because when finishing my classical career, I never presumed there would be more. I think it's given me a much more open view about what is out there if you're prepared to take those risks and be fearless,' she explains. 'Things come your way and they can be rewarding even if they're not great successes. It's the people that you meet on the way that are inspiring, and keep inspiring you. It's a good lesson for all of us – keep being involved in what interests you and search for it.' ■

DARCEY BUSSELL: EVOLVED (Hardie Grant, £30.00) is out now



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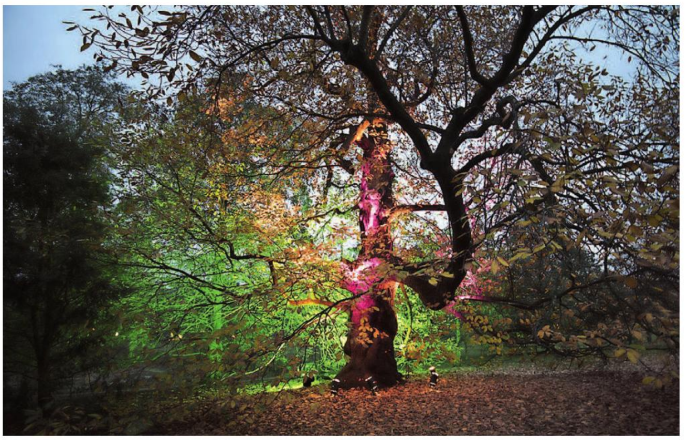
A WINTER Wonderland

Are you ready to get into the fully festive spirit? We've rounded up the best places to head and activities to do in south west London this year

Words: HANNAH LAWRENCE



Christmas is fast approaching which means mulled wine, crisp weather, and lots of gift wrapping. The nights are getting longer and cosy nights in become more appealing. But before the gift wrapping, hibernation and endless cooking commences, you need to make sure you have made the most of what London has to offer this Christmas season to really get you into the festive mood. One thing that is pretty special to do in our wonderful pocket of the city is to simply get out and about into the frosty air and take in the beautiful green surroundings all lit up by sparkling frost and fairy lights. But if you are stuck for ideas, why not take some inspiration from our pick of the bunch?

Christmas at Kew

Now in its sixth year, Christmas at Kew is a staple in the festive calendar. Here Nick Thompson, the Gardens' Senior Commercial Events Manager, tells us what is in store this season:

What can visitors expect from this year's Christmas at Kew?

Each year we seek to make Christmas at Kew even bigger and brighter than before. This year's trail through the gardens will offer an utterly new experience of art, light and sound. Highlights include 300 illuminated origami boats on Kew's glistening lake, trees positively dripping with twinkling lights, a flickering fire garden, an incredible cathedral of light and much more. Not forgetting Santa and his elves, who will definitely be in attendance!

What kind of work goes into Christmas at Kew?

Work starts pretty much once the last Christmas at Kew ends, as it takes months of planning to create something as magical as Christmas at Kew. It is not only the Commercial Events team that puts in the hours of hard work to make Christmas at Kew happen, it is a huge operation that needs the support and dedication of almost every other department we have here at Kew.

What's the inspiration behind this year?

We work with a number of incredible artists and creative studios who create awe-inspiring installations inspired by the Gardens themselves. For example, I'm really excited about the Laser Garden, which will create an atmospheric twist on a winter garden at night using hundreds of green lasers to immerse the audience in light beams that pierce the thick mist. The finale to the trail is the ever-spectacular Palm House Pond Show, where Kew's iconic Victorian glasshouse is brought to life in an explosion of brightly coloured lasers, large-scale projections and a magnificent light and sound show.

Is Kew doing anything else special over the festive period?

Absolutely, winter is an amazing time to visit the Gardens in the daytime too. We've got some great activities lined up for visitors to get stuck into. Families will love our outdoor theatre performances featuring costumed characters Grimbert the Badger and Reynard the Fox! On top of this we have story-telling sessions and winter walking tours which will uncover the beauty of the Gardens at this time of year.

What have you got planned for 2019 at Kew?

Next year is set to be another hugely exciting time for Kew. From April to October, the world's most celebrated contemporary glass artist, Dale Chihuly, will be bringing 32 of his works to the stunning landscape of Kew in a major exhibition of his work, *Chihuly at Kew: Reflections on Nature.* Colombia's unparalleled biodiversity and vibrant culture will serve as the inspiration for the month-long extravaganza in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, featuring dazzling orchid displays and exciting activities.

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Image: Andreas von Einsiedel

Winterville
Former Spice Girl Mel C will be getting the party started as the pop-up town returns to Clapham Common from 17 November to 23 December. The power ballad club night Ultimate Power will be hosting the ultimate sing-a-long session, while cabaret venue, Two Brewers, who has served the gay community for over 30 years, will be getting visitors going in the Speilgeltent. The tent will also play host to Norman Jay MBE, Jazzie B and The Cuban Brothers among others with a programme of music across Friday and Saturday nights throughout the season. Alongside the music the popular ice rink will be making a return and there'll be films on offer from Backyard Cinema and food from Street Feast once again.

WINTERVILLE WEEKEND LINE UPS

Friday 16th November - Melanie C's 90s Mixtape

Saturday 17th November - Ultimate Power and Lambeth Live Explosion

Sunday 18th November - Two Brewers Takeover with London Gay Big Band, plus Little Bird's Fun Quarter

Friday 23rd November - Norman Jay MBE

Saturday 24th November - Indeedy Musical Bingo

Friday 30th November - The Cuban Brothers

Friday 7th December - South London Soul Train

Sunday 9th December - Mrs H & Singalong Band

Friday 14th December - DJ Yoda

Saturday 15th December - Story Labs

Saturday 21st December - Jazzie B

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*The pathway is based on a number of recent systematic reviews published on the accuracy of multiparametric MRI and targeted prostate biopsies, as well as recent evidence published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and The Lancet. Further information available on request.

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Battersea Park Christmas Market

Think mulled wine, raclette, and plenty of carol singers as Battersea Park's Pear Tree Cafe spreads its Christmas market across two weekends this year. Running on 1-2 December and 8-9 December the marquee by the lake will be transformed into a winter wonderland with stalls for you to pick up a present or two. It runs from 11am-5pm Saturday and 10am-5pm Sunday.

Hampton Court

The Tudor palace takes us back to a period that helped define the customs and festivities of Christmas as we know it. From 27-31 December the palace will be coming to life with Victorian fun to show how our impressions of Christmas and of the palace developed under the reign of Queen Victoria.

Richmond's Christmas 10k

Family run company, Nice Work, who put on races throughout the year bring December to an end with one last sprint as runners don their trainers for this festive 10k in Richmond Park. Those who don't fancy 10k can take part in the 5k instead. This year's run will begin from Sheen Gate in Richmond Park at 10am on Sunday 9 December. There will be prizes offered up by Sporting Feet and a £20 voucher for one lucky runner.

Crafty Fox Christmas Market

If you're looking for something a bit different to your traditional craft fair this Christmas Crafty Fox is the one. The monthly market in Elephant and Castle will expand for November and December with 90 traders due to take part each day. For the market's founder, Sinead Koehler, the event is a good opportunity for makers to get exposure. As she explains: 'It's just really great for the makers showing their products in a supportive environment and to meet customers who are particularly interested in what they do. And for makers every little helps. We want to get across the message that every small purchase is important to the makers.' December's event will offer mulled wine and DJs along with traders selling everything you can imagine from jewellery and ceramics to stationary and toys. r

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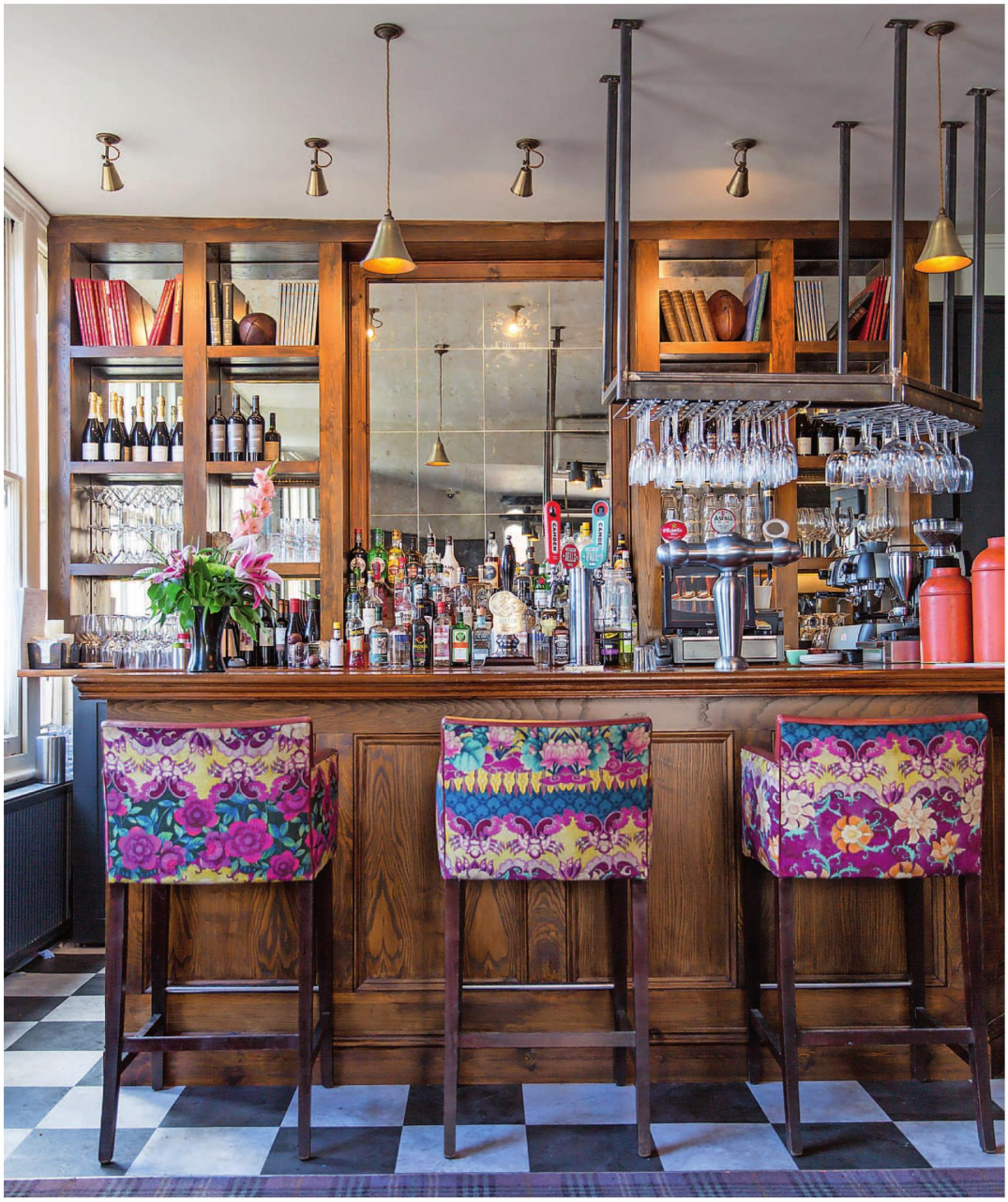

OLD FAVOURITE

The Northcote is back open after its recent makeover and is ready to welcome guests back into its cosy interiors this December. A firm part of Battersea history thanks to its almost 140 years of serving residents, the pub is a perfect place to enjoy a pint, watch some sport and catch up with friends over a nice roast. What's more, the spot is back with an all new menu featuring cocktails and craft beer alongside delicious dishes like braised ox cheek, 28-day aged Cote de Boeuf and 'nduja mac and cheese toasties.

2 Nothcote Road, Battersea, SW11 1NT; thenorthcote.co.uk

Ice, Ice BABY

Harriet Hastings, co-founder of luxury biscuit makers Biscuiteers, talks Christmas preparation, icing workshops – and the small matter of processing a thousand orders a day

Words: MARY JANE WILTSHER

It's a frosty morning in Clapham and staff at the Biscuiteers Boutique & Icing Café on Northcote Road are in Christmas mode. Beyond the monochrome-striped awning, exquisitely iced biscuit families of jolly snowmen, ruby-breasted robins, ballerinas and Nutcracker toy soldiers protrude from a festive display, while the team behind the gleaming counter prepare to host one of the café's signature icing workshops later in the day. Winking biscuit cutters, check. A rainbow of food colouring, check.

Sipping tea in a quiet corner, Harriet Hastings, who co-founded the luxury biscuit gifting business in 2007 with her husband Stevie Congdon, is a picture of serenity, but quickly points out that beyond the polished calm of the icing café is a hive of activity. 'From November onwards we're processing over a thousand orders daily,' she says. 'In fact, preparation for Christmas starts at the very beginning of the year. I find that I get a lot of inspiration for our designs from trawling through the shops during the January sales.'

A thousand orders per day – that's a lot of biscuits. But it's the attention to detail in Biscuiteers' products that makes those numbers even more mind-boggling. Everything here is painstakingly hand-iced, from the plumage of a partridge's tail to the sugary detailing on a king's robe, and made using non-industrialised techniques. How does a commitment to slow craftsmanship translate to the Christmas rush?

'It's not always easy – in fact, if I'd understood what the production scale would look like I might have chosen differently!' laughs Hastings. 'The biggest challenge has always been managing our pace of growth. But in the spring we'll be opening a new headquarters, a sort of Biscuit Towers in south west London. It'll be great to have everyone in one place as currently we're spread across three factories.'

It's a logical progression. In its 11 years, Biscuiteers has grown from a fledgling idea conceived

on a trip to New York to a colossal international success. Today, its biscuits are sold in almost 100 countries and stocked in all the consumer goliaths, from Harrods to Fortnum & Mason and Selfridges. Along the way there have been awards, an illustrated *Book of Iced Biscuits*, and a plethora of big-name collaborations, while two beautifully appointed Biscuiteers icing cafés (the other in Notting Hill) provide a space where customers can shop, enjoy afternoon tea, or book into one of Biscuiteers' popular icing how-tos.

'The cafés offer a way for people to experience the brand in a different way, a bit like a pottery café,' explains Hastings. 'We have hen parties booking privately, cookery schools coming in for lessons, and our monthly icing lates.'

Biscuiteers has grown from a fledgling idea to a colossal international success

New to the Biscuiteers brood this Christmas are imaginative additions like Rocking Around At Après Ski, complete with dinky snow boots and tricolored woollies, which joins stalwart bestsellers like the nativity scene, DIY Hansel & Gretel gingerbread house and Biscuiteers advent calendar, with its woodland biscuit creatures peeping out of an artfully embroidered backdrop. Hastings says the versatility of the product plays a key role in Biscuiteers'

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success. 'When we first saw an opportunity in food gifting, we didn't know what specifically. We weren't even necessarily thinking of something sweet, but we landed on biscuits because of their flexibility – you can post them, and they have shelf life.'

They're also the perfect canvas for Biscuiteers' team of talented icers, whose collections are released seasonally, like the fashion cycle. 'That idea came from my background in PR and branding. We have staples, like our "get well soon" First Aid Kits and new baby biscuit tins, but we can also release something reactive like our Matisse collection or the 40 years of Raymond Briggs' *The Snowman*.'

Creative craftsmanship is certainly Biscuiteers' USP, but Hastings is unafraid of taking the brand in new directions, recently branching into tea production ('our Biscuiteers tea is all grown in Cornwall, which has its own microclimate'), sparkling wine and a range of cakes.

'There are other surprises in store, including a number of pop up experiences'

When she's not devising new biscuit designs or visiting factories, Hastings spends her free time walking, reading and riding. 'We split our time between London and Suffolk, which is a nice change of tempo from the city.' The key to working with a spouse, she says, is to 'both have a bit of space to yourselves – in terms of physical space, but also in inhabiting different areas of the business.'

The move to an integrated business model at a shiny new Biscuit Towers HQ will preoccupy much of Biscuiteers' early 2019 calendar, but there are other surprises in store too, including a number of pop up experiences currently under wraps.

In the meantime, Hastings will be enjoying some well deserved Christmas downtime in the Suffolk countryside. 'There'll be lots of family descending on us, and not enough bedrooms!' she smiles. Biscuits, however, will be in plentiful supply. r

To book one of Biscuiteers' icing lessons or afternoon teas, visit biscuiteers.com /boutique-icing-cafe

FOOD *REVIEW*

MANIFESTO PIZZA

Pizza is one of those things that can either be absolutely delicious or a colossal disappointment. With takeaway spots aplenty, more chains than you can count and its growing appearance on menus here, there and everywhere, it can be a bit of a minefield which result you'll get. Manifesto Pizza on Northcote Road has a different strategy to stand out – crafting a menu that features just seven pizzas and few wine or beer choices. It's the brainchild of Vittorio Maschio, the former director of high-end fruit and vegetable supplier Natoora. And as you might imagine from his CV, he knows a thing or two about exceptional ingredient providence, used to selling to London's top Michelin-starred chefs. The new spot therefore is all about showcasing this in a no-frills neighbourhood package.

It might come as little surprise then that when I visit the pizza is delicious. My guest and I went half and half on the Smokey Cow and the Pig and Field. The former comes with mozzarella fiordilatte, Jerusalem artichokes, gorgonzola, parsley drops and speck pedrazzoli, and was a showcase in sourcing. This is thanks in part to the delicious mozzarella made from local milk in Puglia, which balances out the rich flavours of the gorgonzola and speck. The Pig and Field on the other hand keeps it simple with tomato, mozzarella fiordilatte, ham pedrazzoli and mushrooms. It's a classic recipe that I've had countless times before, but never better than this one.

It's clear that Maschio has put everything into these options, even down to sourcing flour from Molino Pasini, who have made it for over 80 years under the same family and creating the dough using the 'Biga-style' technique, which takes 48 hours of proving. On the drinks side, while it is certainly a limited wine menu (we were only offered the one choice for white), the bottle of Sicilian Catarratto organic white wine we enjoyed was wonderful.

The only let down unfortunately is one of atmosphere. It's perhaps a by-product of the simplicity, but the small space with just 30 covers feels a little more like a takeaway spot than a place for sit-down dinner. Part of this also comes from it being self-service, where you order at the till and your food is brought over, which I'm told is to place all resources into making the pizza the best it can be. It all means while the place seems to be thriving in its delivery offerings, the restaurant is yet to come into its own. But I'm sure as word spreads about the delicious offering, the neighbourhood spot will be giving the bigger pizza chains a run for their money in no time at all.

148 Northcote Road, SW11 6RD; manifestopizza.com

RESIDENT RATING
★★★

WORDS FAY WATSON; CREDITS: MANIFESTO BY OLIVIA THOMPSON; THE WRIGHT BROTHERS BY TOBY KEAN; JIMMY'S PHTO COURTESY THE LODGE; BRINDISA BY ADAM LUSZNIAK

THE QUICK LIST

The latest openings and news from the area's restaurants and bars

High praise

Clapham's favourite neighbourhood restaurant Sorella has been recognised by The Michelin Guide's 2019 panel. The Italian bistro from the team behind The Dairy and Counter Culture has received a Bib Gourmand, which is an accolade for restaurants that deliver simple yet skilful cooking at great prices.
148 Clapham Manor Street, SW4 6BX; sorellarestaurant.co.uk

Meet-free

A new vegan pop-up has just launched in Clapham to offer us south west Londoners some delicious plant-based comfort food. From the brain of south London chef Dominic Taylor, The Meet will be open daily at Fu Manchu, under the railway arches in Clapham North.
15-16 Lendal Terrace, Clapham, SW4 7UX; the-meet.co.uk

Bar work

Tacos, tequila and mezcal. What more could you want from Brixton's latest opening La Barra? The spot has just been opened on Market Row by Joshua Whiting, who is the man behind Killa Dilla and Tacos Del Ray. Diners can expect slow cooked meat tacos, as well as some delicious margaritas.
14E Market Row, Brixton, SW9 8LD; @labarralondon

Open doors

The Scotch Malt Whiskey Society have recently opened their 12-month whisky and cocktail pop-up on Northcote Road. In celebration of its 35th anniversary, the spot will offer a delicious menu of cocktails and food, as well as giving people a glimpse into the usually members-only society.
78 Northcote Road, SW11 6QL; smws.com

Festive feast

Battersea's own Wright Brothers have put together the ultimate seafood feast just in time for Christmas this year. It's available for delivery or collection and contains all your favourites with prawns, whelks, mussels, Jersey oysters and a whole lobster. They also provide all the ingredients for a festive fizz cocktail.
Battersea Power Station, 26 Circus West Village, SW8 4NN; thewrightbrothers.co.uk

Winter favourite

Jimmy's Lodge on the River is back for winter on Southbank with an impressive upstairs dining room, a cosy winter warmer bar on the river and the return of those infamous private dining snow globes. Pop in and warm up with some fondue and mulled wine.
Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, SE1 8XX

Battersea bound

Tapas extraordinaire Brindisa has finally opened the doors to its new Battersea Power Station site. Complete with an in-house cheese and charcuterie bar, the restaurant is welcoming guests for both relaxed counter dining as well as dishes inspired by Spanish home-cooking.
Battersea Power Station, 25 Circus West Village, SW8 4NN

Seasonal treat

The Petersham Restaurant is hosting a special Boxing Day afternoon tea on 26 December to celebrate the magical season. Running from 1pm to 6pm, guests can tuck into sandwiches and desserts with a great view of the Thames.
Nightingale Lane, Richmond, TW10 6UZ; petershamhotel.co.uk

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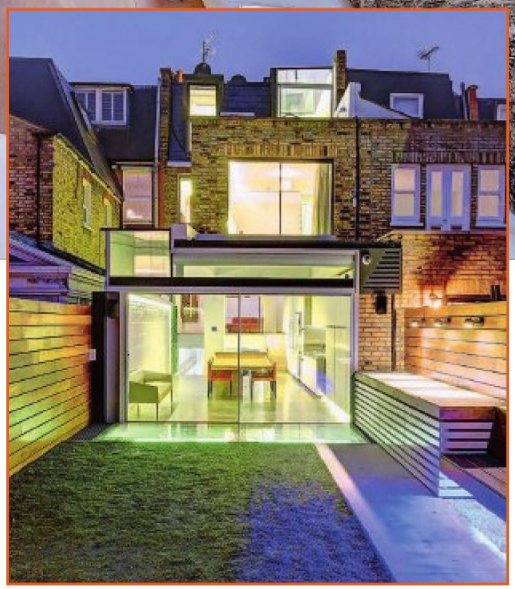

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DESIGN

H AND G DESIGNS

THE RISE OF THE SHELFIE

Just as the modern day selfie has taken over our lives, and revolutionised the way in which we capture memories and take photos, the design equivalent of the 'shelfie' has been the *it* word of the year. And what better time than Christmas is there to treat people (or yourself) to something that would work perfectly on the ever important shelf? It's all about the framing of the image and the contents of the shelf, so go for a variety of different objects that have different sizes and focal points. Small and unique ceramics are always a winner, mixed in with some greenery and your favourite coffee table books. So why not treat your loved one to something that will end up gracing their Instagram pages?

HYGGE *in the* HOLIDAYS

Inspire yourself for a cosy Christmas full of Scandinavian design with Blåbär in Putney

Words: ALEXANDER LARMAN

Putney has not traditionally been associated with cutting-edge Scandinavian design, but ever since Richmond residents Sandra West and Oliver Goodier opened Blåbär in this well-heeled corner of south west London in 2016, their mixture of accessible and stylish homeware and a near-legendary café has made SW15 one of the places for any fashionista into their hygge and lagom. Yet as West says, all of this is completely natural to her.

'Growing up in Sweden, design is ingrained in everyday life – especially in the home. My theory is due to the long Scandinavian winters, we spend a lot of time in there and it becomes a very considered space,' she says. 'Simple and functional pieces are absolute key, it is much more important to have quality and sustainable items over quantity; many like to buy from Scandinavian brands who have this ethos.'

She first decided to launch Blåbär with Goodier after 'seeing the Scandinavian lifestyle from his British perspective, and falling in love with it again at the same time he did'. Their intention was 'to bring together our experiences and create a genuine piece of Scandinavia in London. We opened Blåbär as our tribute to the Nordic lifestyle – it is both a café and a design store, which allows us to create a community and a sort of home away from home for customers. They get to come and have coffee and cinnamon buns in what feels like a Swedish living room, and can then buy the plates and the candleholders and the ceiling light if they like'.

For West, 'lagom' is the main concept by how she lives her life. As she defines it: 'It essentially means "just the right amount" and actually sums up the Scandi lifestyle quite well. It is similar to slow living, and about finding contentment and balance, as well as having respect for the environment and sustainability.

'At Blåbär we really incorporate this – as the space is meant to be a haven from the stresses of London. We hope that you step through the door and feel you are in Stockholm or Copenhagen.' Another important idea for visitors to the café is a 'Fika', or coffee break, invariably accompanied by a cinnamon bun; this builds a sense of community and a desire to do something other than shop.

Not, of course, that the friendly and engaged West wants anything other than to give her customers a wonderful experience. As she explains: 'All the design items we have come from Scandinavia and we buy directly from the designers. We only choose items we feel are quality and have a timeless design, and also bring over vintage items from Sweden, to give them a new home.

'The space is meant to be a haven from the stresses of London'

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'Every item has a story. Personally, I love finding the perfect product for each individual customer. Seeing the look on someone's face when they smell their way through our candles, then find the scent that gives them a huge smile on their face. Or when someone is looking at our Icelandic sheepskins then touch it and can't put it down. It is really about finding that product – person fit. Our ethos is about longevity, and finding a connection with an item.'

For such a visually-led store, social media, especially Instagram, is a big part of the focus, meaning that even those situated further away from Putney can vicariously enjoy Blåbär's Scandinavian charms.

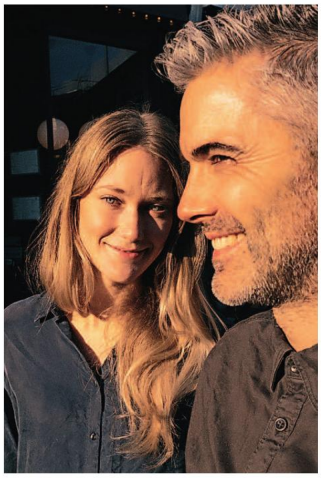
As West says: 'Instagram is the perfect forum for us to reach customers, as it is based on photos. We try to convey who we are – which is best done by of course visiting us in Putney – but also through imagery. Photos can convey a feeling and an atmosphere, and that is what we try to do on Instagram. We try to keep it personal, and we are now also doing Instastories which tell the story of what is going on every day – so people who follow us can get to know the staff and customers, and see what new items we have in.' Or, of course, when the cinnamon buns are fresh out of the oven.

'Hygge means togetherness and an everyday experience of cosiness'

As Christmas approaches, the Danish concept of hygge is at the forefront of West's mind, both professionally and personally. She says: 'Although it's had a moment, it's more than just a trend… it essentially means togetherness and an everyday experience of cosiness, which is important in the festive season. Getting together with the people you love, keeping warm with knitted socks and blankets, drinking a hot cup of tea or chocolate, and having a fire going, or more likely in London a few candles, playing a board game or just watching a series – it just is the essence of a cosy winter.'

Although West loves London, there is a part of her that remains forever Swedish. 'Ideally, I would love to also have a summerhouse by the lakes in Sweden, near my family, where I can wake up in the morning and go down to the lake for a morning swim before a coffee in the garden.' Yet, until then, the wonderful Blåbär is her, and Londoners', very own sanctuary. ■

blabar.london



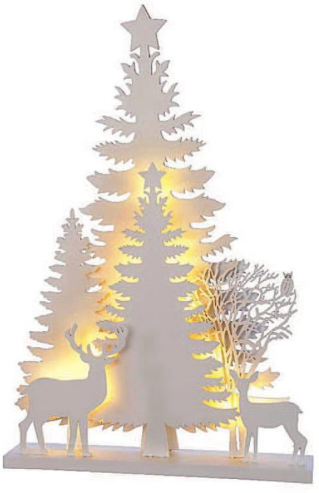
Sandra West and Oliver Goodier

SPREAD THE JOY

Your Christmas table should set the scene for an epicurean experience you will remember the whole year through

Words: KATE HOUGHTON

Set of four Champagne flutes, £32.50, notjustjugs.com



ABOVE: Luxury chocolates, £22, chococo.co.uk

LEFT: Stag Forest LED scene table centre, £38, marquisanddawe.co.uk

FEAST FOR THE SENSES

A little bit of fun goes a long way to making family memories to treasure

Penguin afternoon tea collection, from £15.50, saramiller.london

Festive Geese footed cake plate, £49.95, annabeljames.co.uk

ABOVE: Holly & Berry napkins, £15, sophieallport.com

BELOW: Nordic Light four-arm candelabra, £69.50, abodeliving.co.uk

Embroidered red Christmas tablecloth, £50, raggedrose.com

Acacia wood & bark placemat, £18, & burnished copper votives (3), £18, johnlewis.com

Fluted large decanter, £255, and Jancis Robinson collection wine glass, £35, richardbrendon.com

Hessian snowflake table runner, £8.95, luckandluck.co.uk

TRADITIONALLY BEAUTIFUL

Classic styling will bring the joy of the season to all who attend your Christmas dining table

Partridge luxury crackers (6), £20, saramiller.london

Gold cone & feather garland, £42, tch.net

Silverton 16 piece cutlery set, £80, made.com

carlhansen.com

CHRISTMAS AT CARL HANSEN & SØN

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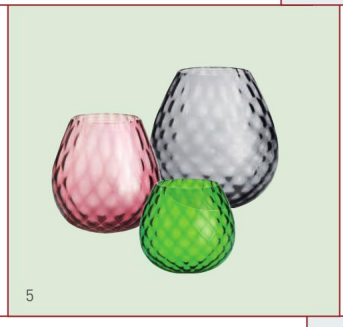
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At Carl Hansen & Søn we celebrate Christmas with an exciting and varied selection of ideas for the Christmas table and the gifts under the tree. Gifts that both create happiness here and now - but also for a long time after.

1. Christmas napkins. Hand embroidered napkins with 2 different motifs. Exclusively made for Carl Hansen & Søn. Sold in sets of 12 pieces in the same design. Retail price £ 160

2. CH24 Wishbone chair. Design: Hans J. Wegner. On the occasion of Carl Hansen & Søn's 110th birthday, we launch a set of brand□new colors and a selection of the classic variants at a very special birthday campaign price in the period until 31 December. New colours: Rosy Blush, Russet Red, Deep Burgundy, Oyster Grey, Forest Green, Deep Olive. Birthday campaign price £500. Black painted oak/natural paper cord, black painted beech/natural paper cord. Soaped oak/natural paper cord, oiled oak/natural paper cord, soaped beech/natural paper cord. Birthday campaign price £500

3. Longhaired lambskin from Iceland. Available in 5 variants: brown, black, white, gray or spotted. Retail price eg. in white and black from £116

4. Liberty Travel bag. Exclusive large travel bag in goat's leather. Also available in the colors brown and black. Exclusively made for Carl Hansen & Søn. Retail price from £ 484

5. Nason Moretti vases. Collection of vases from the Italian glassmaker Nason Moretti. Available in 3 sizes. H: 9,5, 12 and 15 cm. and in the colours: grey, blue, mustard, pine and violet. Retail prices: H: 9.5 cm £ 61, H: 12 cm £ 77, H: 15 cm £ 100.

6. CH410 / Ch411. Peter's chair and table. Design: Hans J. Wegner. Nice little set for the children's room consisting of a table and a chair in untreated beech wood. No sharp edges and corners. Retail Price: Chair £ 329, Table £ 383

7. Wool blankets. Made of 100% pure wool. Hand□woven blanket from Portugal. Retail price £ 120

8. Handmade Vietnamese Pottery. Available in many forms and sizes. Retail prices: Brown vase £ 192, Beige Vase £ 71

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Rose gold sequin table runner, £16.99, gingerray.co.uk

Mistletoe garland, £14.99, lights4fun.co.uk

Juniper Berry & Cedar and Cinnamon & Orange glitter candles, £14.99 each, dobbies.com

PINK FIZZ

Embracing the festive shade is sure to put a smile on your face

Lulu champagne flutes (4), £41.95, annabeljames.co.uk

Laura Ashley Christmas Blush collection, from £7, lauraashley.com

ABOVE: Ava & I stemless wine glass, £9.99, creative-tops.com

BELOW: Walker Christmas cracker set (6), £35, debenhams.com

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Emma Britton floral etched glass collection, from £6, emmabritton.net

Above: Four LSA Lulu cocktail glasses, £36, black-by-design.co.uk

Left: Retro glass cocktail shaker, £29, cultfurniture.com

Six Library wine glasses, £105, hurnandhurn.com

THREE CHEERS

Raising a glass is all the more pleasurable when it's as festive as the contents

From left: Etched wine glass, £10, lauraashley.com
Royal Christmas wine glass, £15, amara.com
Star by Julien Macdonald wine glass, £8, debenhams.co.uk

Four berry tinted wine glasses, £39.95 & decanter, £32.50, audenza.com

Two Cognac rocking glasses, £29, hurnandhurn.com

'TIS THE SEASON...

... to be jolly, so go all out with a Christmas decorating scheme that really celebrates the festive season

Story: KARA O'REILLY

A by Amara Deco Natural small pinecone wreath, £25, amara.com

Life of a Snowman matryoshka, £250, theconranshop.co.uk

Origami tree decoration, £2.99, dobbies.com

FOREST GREEN

The new 'it' interiors colour and very flexible it is too. Make it modern by mixing with black, white and metallic accents; or go for a more natural, Nordic-influenced sensibility and add textural elements such as fir cones, forest twigs and faux fur.

Luxury faux fur stocking in Spruce by Helen Moore, from £40, black-by-design.co.uk

Leaf-filled shatterproof bauble, £10.50 for 6, coxandcox.co.uk

Paper concertina baubles, £22 per set of 4, toa.st

Pinecone Christmas crackers, £35 for 6, nancyandbetty.com

24-pocket re-usable Advent calendar, £55, designletters.dk

Snowy cone ball, £3.60, joannawood.co.uk

All items by George Home, from a selection, asda.com

Rainbow bauble wreath, £25; baubles, from £2 each; Gift wrap, tags and ribbon, from £2, all John Lewis & Partners (johnlewis.com)

Palla di Fidanzamento hand-decorated porcelain ornament, £32, alessi.com

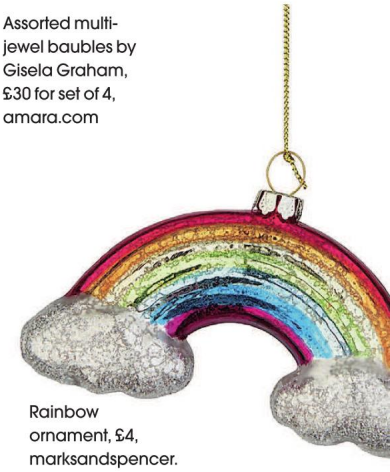
Pompom wreath, £30, debenhams.com

Assorted multi-jewel baubles by Gisela Graham, £30 for set of 4, amara.com

DISCO RAINBOW

This is the look for those who love an OTT approach to Christmas decorating. It's also a cool way of coordinating all those miscellaneous decos accumulated over the years: simply arrange into colour families, then decorate in swathes. Failing that, go all out and invest in a medley of rainbow-inspired ornaments for a joyous explosion of colour.

Embellished velvet stocking by Jan Constantine, £65, selfridges.com



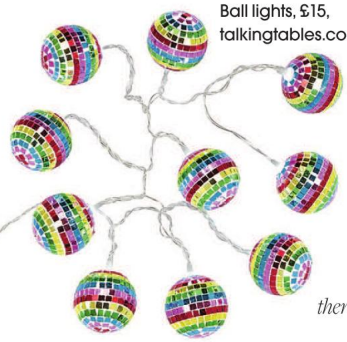
Rainbow ornament, £4, marksandspencer.com

Pack of multi-colour baubles, £25 for 32, John Lewis & Partners (johnlewis.com)

Rainbow bottlebrush tree, £7.50, paperchase.co.uk

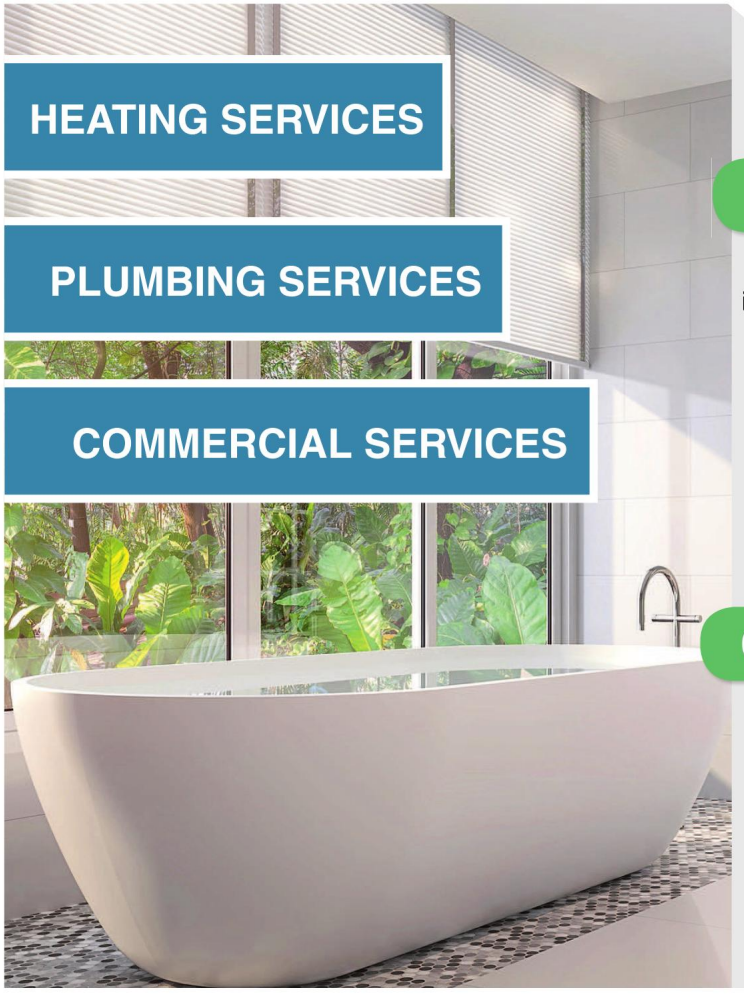
Paper spike decorations, £10 each, rajtentclub.com

Felt garland, £18.50, Victoria & Albert Museum (vam.ac.uk/shop)



Boho Disco Ball lights, £15, talkingtables.co.uk

Rainbow mini crackers, £6 for 8, habitat.co.uk



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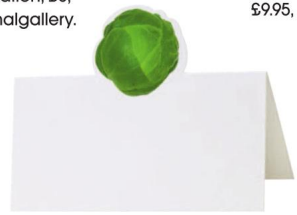
Burger decoration, £5, debenhams.com

Soy sauce decoration, £6, paperchase.co.uk

Pea pod decoration, £3.75, The Contemporary Home (tch.net)

Glass Brussel sprout, £9.95, aerloom.london

Bunch of asparagus decoration, £8, nationalgallery.co.uk



Sprout place cards, £3.50 for 12, talkingtables.co.uk

Aubergine tree decoration, £8, theconranshop.co.uk

Glass chilli decoration, £6, giselagraham.co.uk

Carrot decoration, £16, petershamnurseries.com

Little Treats ornament set by Bombki, £65, fortnumandmason.com

Brussel sprout crackers, £36 for 6, Victoria & Albert Museum (vam.ac.uk/shop)

Glass fruit baubles, from £3 each, The Contemporary Home (tch.net)

FABULOUS FOODSTUFFS

From all conceivable types of fruit and veg to junk food and sweet treats, every Christmas collection has some foodie element to it. It's this year's quirkier ornaments theme.

MINI TREND

Fashion makes a move on Christmas with big cat themes – *so* this season, darling….

Matt gold leopard-print bauble, £5, Natural History Museum (nhmshop.co.uk)

Leopard print celebration crackers, £50 for 6, selfridges.com

Panther tree decoration, £12, amara.com

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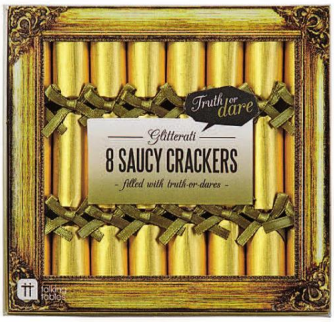
Waxed paper baubles with gold decoration and pearls, £6.25 each, rajtentclub.com

Antique baubles, from £6 each, heals.com

World map globe ornament, £12, fortnumandmason.com

Gold pomegranate decoration, £4.80, joannawood.co.uk

Glass onion sequin and pearls bauble, £3, homebase.co.uk



Glitterati saucer crackers, £7 for 8, talkingtables.co.uk

Gold flower garlands, £40 for set of 2, sophieconran.com

GO FOR GOLD

To give a classic look an update, choose a trad Christmas colour – whether that's gold, silver, white or red – and aim for a monochromatic effect, using only decorations in that single hue.

Metallic candleholder by Madam Stoltz, £9, smallable.com

Golden decorations, from £15 for 2, all sophieconran.com

Gold Merry Christmas bunting, £4.99, gingerray.co.uk

Gold glitter paper tree decorations, £8.95 for set of 2, rockettstgeorge.co.uk

Glass glitter bauble with sequins, £4.20, giselagraham.co.uk

Tangle star tree topper by Stelton, £74.95, black-by-design.co.uk

Dove ornament by Alexander Girard, £16, vitra.com

TREND ALERT

Marquetry – the art of applying other materials including wood, metal, shell and bone to a structure to form a decorative pattern – dates right back to Roman times. It never really went away, but hit the peaks of fashion in the 16th and 17th centuries. A recent resurgence in our appreciation of crafts and artisan designer makers means that intensely beautiful, one-off pieces are being designed in workshops around the world, creating works of art that one might describe as instant heirlooms. This stunning piece, the Stella'd cocktail cabinet by Zelouf + Bell, is set with fumed figured eucalyptus and ripple sycamore, creating a graphic optical pattern – which might deepen the heady effect of those cocktails.
zeloufandbell.com

LETTER TO SANTA

Gallery Piccolo, the online specialist in art for children's rooms, has added talented artist Helen Wallis to their collective and she has completed her largest project to date – illustrating the alphabet with incredibly detailed black and white drawings, each one taking over 50 hours to complete. Making a stunning addition to any playroom or nursery, choose just a single initial or build an entire name in sizes A5 to A2. ***gallerypiccolo.co.uk***

3 *of the best CHRISTMAS CANDLES —*

BELOW: White Moss & Snowdrop deluxe candle, *£126, jomalone.co.uk*

ABOVE: Vetiver & Black Spruce, *£30, espaskincare.com*

ABOVE: Cinnamon, rose & anise candle, *£25, saramiller.london*

JUST NATURAL

With an experimental workshop set amongst six acres of ancient woodland in Cornwall, Tom Raffield's designs are synonymous with nature and his new collection, The Modum Range, showcases the brand's signature steam bent curves and innovative, iconic design aesthetic.

Taking inspiration from the shapes, movements and sequential patterns that are found in the natural world, his latest range incorporates looping, layered ribbons of oak and walnut to create dazzlingly beautiful lighting surrounds.
tomraffield.com

WORDS: KATE HOUGHTON

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GIFT GUIDE

GOLD & GREY ORGANZA MERRY CHRISTMAS RIBBON BY COX & COX

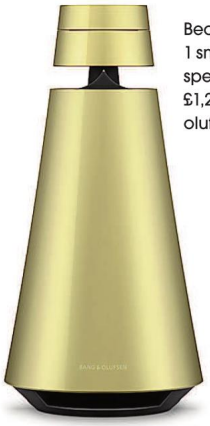
TIME FOR GIVING

It's that time of year again when all you can think about is how many presents you still need to buy for people before the run up to the big day. It can be very time consuming and stressful at times, so we've pulled together ideas from some of our favourite people this year to help out with a little gifting inspiration. From interiors to design, to children to gourmet and gadgets, we've got something for someone in the next few pages. Perhaps you want to make your little one's bedroom into a playground with the addition of a teepee, or you think one of your friends may fancy a new print for their kitchen wall – well, turn over the page and see what you think...

THE DESIGN GUIDE

Gorgeous gift ideas for all manner of interiors addicts

Story: KARA O'REILLY



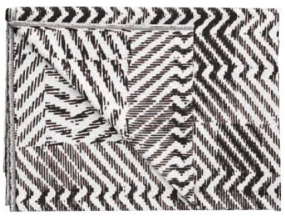
Beo Sound 1 smart speaker, £1,250, bang-olufsen.com

Vintage brass magazine rack by Maison Bagues, £475, artissanalondon.com

Morning coffee & tea alarm clock, £345, barisieur.com

Ceramic vessel, from £1,200 to commission, oliviawalker.co.uk

Brass mini spoons, £20 per set of six, alicebosc.com



Stamp wool and cotton throw, £260, beatricelarkin.com

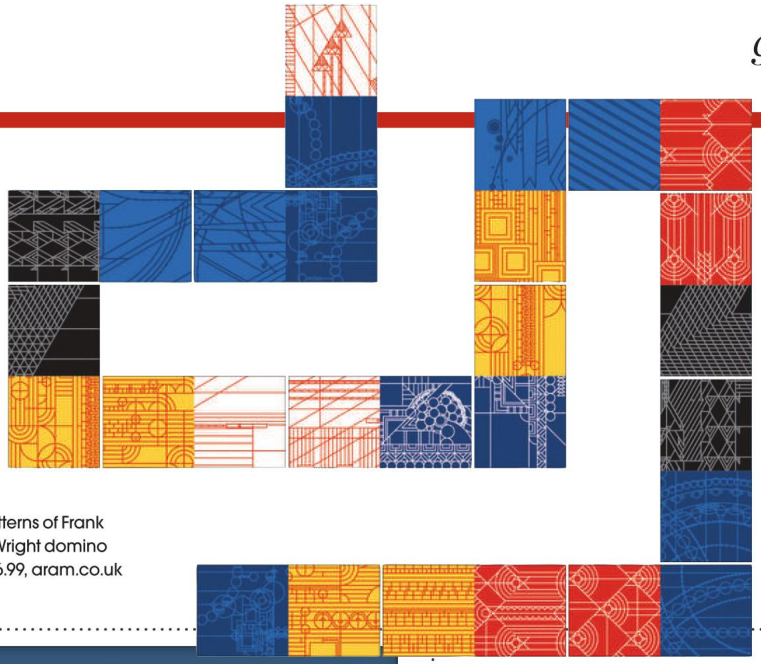
Solid brass oil burner, £120, aesop.com

Cashmere travel blanket set, £625, bamford.com

Steak serving set, £26, debenhams.com

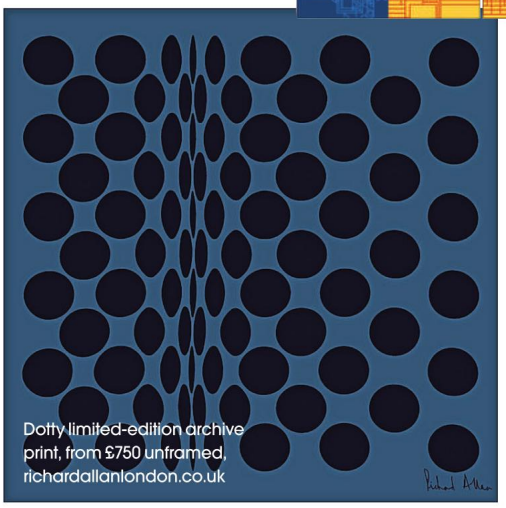
Modernist fruit bowl in cobalt, £29.50, abodeliving.co.uk

Golden Eye mirror, £198, audenza.com



The Patterns of Frank Lloyd Wright domino set, £26.99, aram.co.uk

Bambino chair upholstered in fabric by Eleanor Pritchard, £2,349, heals.com



Dotty limited-edition archive print, from £750 unframed, richardallanlondon.co.uk

Cool ice bucket, £68, designletters.dk

Woven stool, from £245 to order, jorobyn elbourne.com

Linen bedding, £155 for a double set, chalkpinklinencompany.co.uk

Crocodile box with playing cards, £190, l-objet.com

Leopard print faux fur throw, £99, thefrenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

Barbara Hepworth cushion, £70, hepworthwakefield.org/shop or shop.kettlesyard.co.uk

THE STYLE GUIDE

The most fashionable gifts for the man or woman in your life

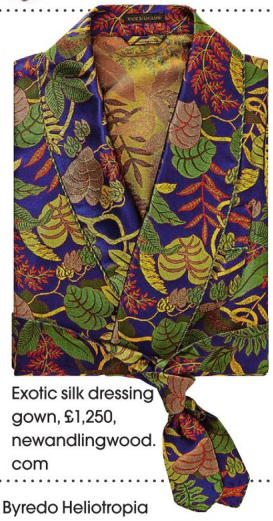
Rotary rose gold Greenwich G2 watch, £289, rotarywatches.com

Sara Miller London leaves bangle, £50, saramiller.london

Harry's winter Winston shaving kit, £38, harrys.com

Amethyst maxi claw ring, £295, danielladraper.com

Hunter original tall silver boots, £95, hunter.co.uk



Exotic silk dressing gown, £1,250, newandlingwood.com

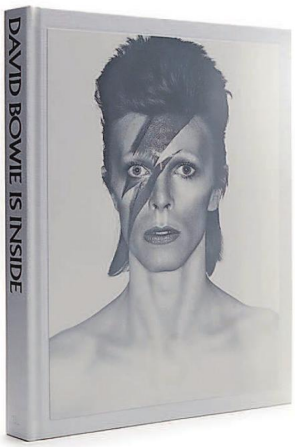
Trickers Lily beechnut jodhpur boot, £395, trickers.com

Paul Smith floral socks, £18, libertylondon.com

Byredo Heliotropia eau de parfum, £160, liberty london.com

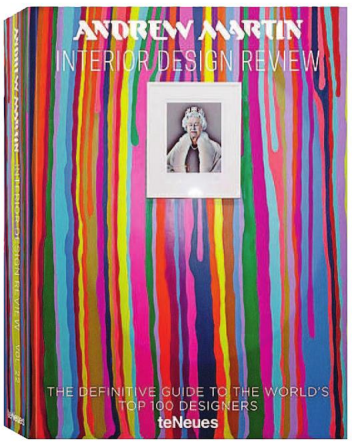
THE CULTURE GUIDE

Love the arts? Here's a selection of perfect gifts picked just for you



David Bowie V&A Museum book, £200, vanda.org.uk

Chisel & Mouse London blue river cityscape, £255, chiselandmouse.co.uk



Andrew Martin Interior Design Review Vol. 22, £45, andrewmartin.co.uk

BFI Champion giftpack 2018, £260, shop.bfi.org.uk

Grayson Perry snowglobe, £50, shop.tate.org.uk

Monet pond silk scarf, £50, nationalgallery.co.uk

Fly in a WWII Spitfire Virgin Experience, £2,750, virginexperiencedays.co.uk

Lhouette art chess set, £7,000, tburnsarts.com

Black Diamond elite audio turntable, £2,750, eliteaudiouk.com

THE GOURMET GUIDE

Luxury foodie ideas to make your dining table sparkle

Jonathan Adler Vodka Rocket Decanter, £148, jonathanadler.co.uk

Fortnum's vegan wine hamper, £295, fortnumandmason.com

108 Isabella gin, £38, 108brasserie.com

Jonathan Adler Les Girls cocktail napkins, £48, jonathanadler.co.uk

Mater double bottle, £106.50, connox.co.uk

Sara Miller London penguin tea spoons, £21, saramiller.london

Eat Sushi art print, £20, rebsville.com

Stacey Forsey book, £20, staceyforsey.co.uk

Collar espresso maker, £70, habitat.co.uk

THE GADGET GUIDE

Feast your eyes on this festive selection for the tech lovers amongst us

Canon PowerShot SX70 HS, £519.99, canon.co.uk

Bowers & Wilkins PX noise-cancelling headphone, £329.99, bowers-wilkins.co.uk

Roccbox portable pizza oven, £499, gozney.com

Lumie Lamp Body Clock Glow 150, £90, lumie.com

Selfridges GoPro Hero7 Black Action Cam, £379, selfridges.com

Bose noise masking sleepbuds, £229.95, johnlewis.com

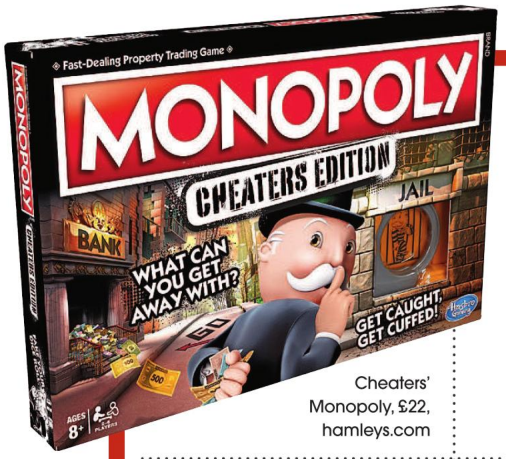
Panasonic 3-in-1 Micro-Current Facial Enhance EH-XT20, £199 .99, harrods.com

Smeg x Dolce&Gabbana 'Sicily is my Love' SMF01 stand mixer, from £599, smeguk.com

Selfridges Fitbit Versa Smartwatch in Black Aluminium, £199, selfridges.com

THE KIDS GUIDE

Watch their faces light up with our choice of the best gifts for little ones



Cheaters' Monopoly, £22, hamleys.com

My 1st Years personalised turquoise ride, £120, myfirstyears.com

Not on the High Street teepee, £99, notonthehighstreet.co.uk

Scoop subscription, scoopthemag.co.uk

Cloud mobile, £42, libertylondon.com

Selfridges Hansa Giraffe soft animal figure 133cm, £500, selfridges.com

Selfridges Smartech Loog wood three cord mini guitar, £99, selfridges.com

140th Anniversary Baby Balmoral, £750, silvercrossbaby.com

Olli Ella Seeya wheeled kids suitcase rust, £59, olliella.com

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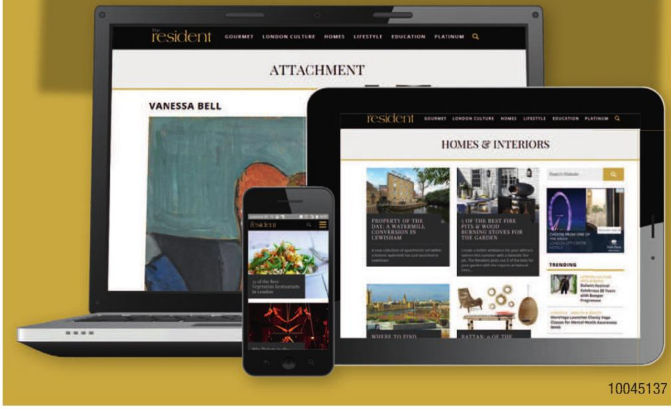

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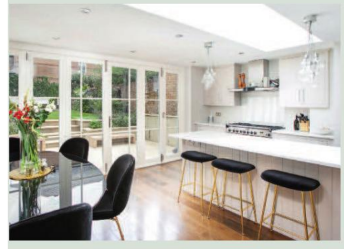

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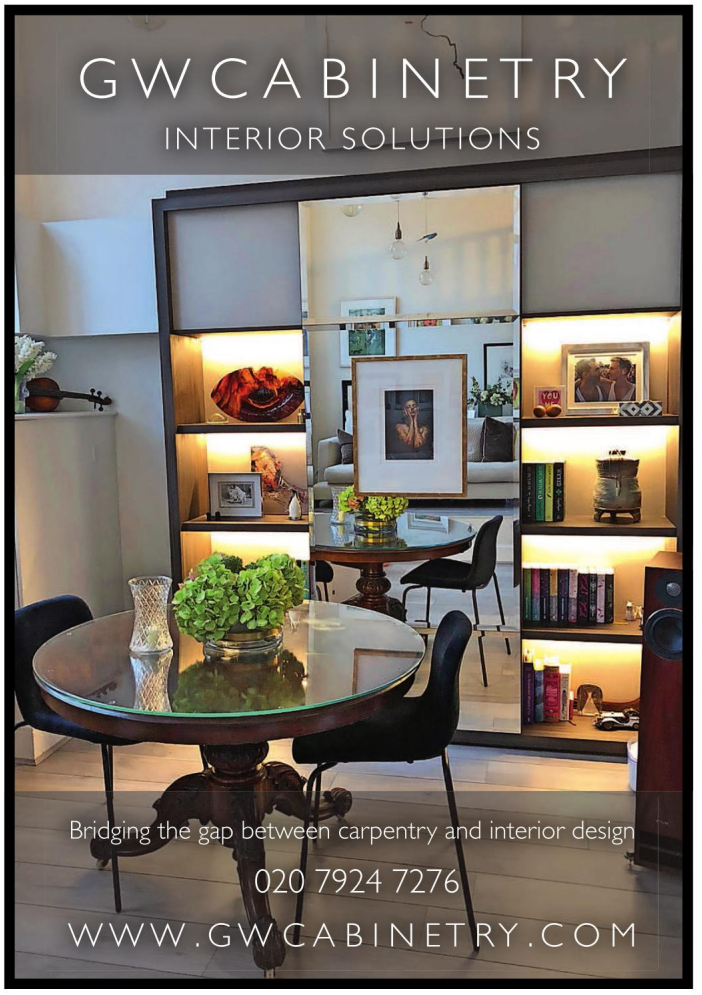

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LIFESTYLE

FESTIVE FLORALS

There's plenty to get you in the Christmas spirit at Petersham Nurseries this month with a whole host of workshops, events and shopping evenings. Kicking off the month, there will be workshops helping you get your festive florals in order with a masterclass on table flowers for Christmas on 7 December and wreath making workshops on 11, 12 and 13 December. If you're looking for something extra special, the Richmond favourite will also be hosting a festive wine-tasting on 15 December as well as a late night opening on 5 December from 6pm-8pm, with Christmas carols, mulled wine and mince pies. What more could you want?

Church Lane, Off Petersham Road, Richmond, TW10 7AB; petershamnurseries.com

UNDER THE DOMES

Venture a little further west to Crete's lesser known gem of Chania to enjoy sun, sea and a whole lot of relaxation

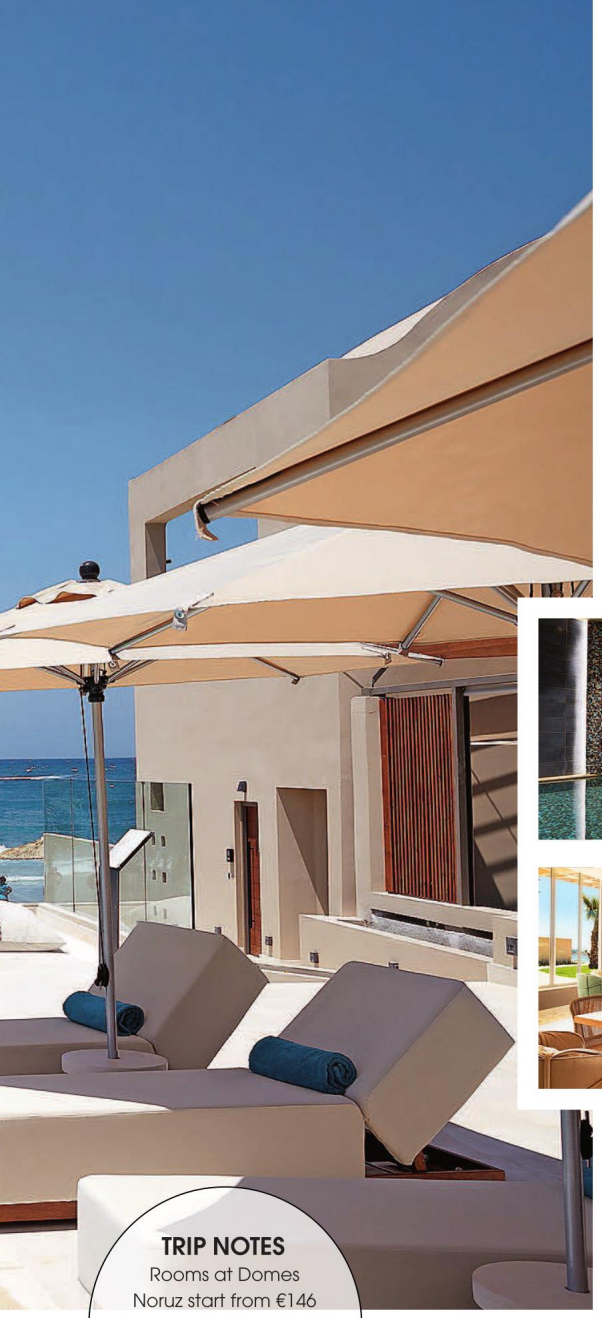
Words: FAY WATSON

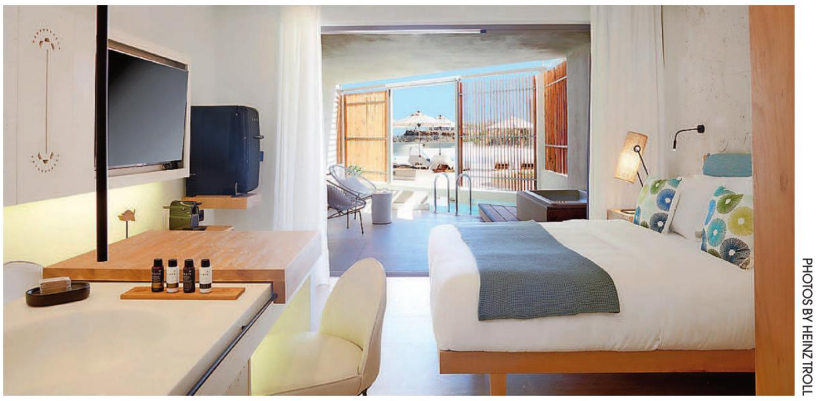
While Chania is probably the lesser known sibling of Heraklion, the capital of Greece's largest island Crete, it is most certainly not the inferior. Built on the ancient site of Kydonia, the region has had an extensive history of occupations from the Byzantines, Venetians and the Ottoman Empire, which bleeds into the city's eclectic architecture. This can be seen from a short wander through the city's Old Town with its dome-topped mosque sat on the waterfront and the imposing Venetian lighthouse looming over the skyline. But perhaps what makes the area such a special place to visit is that this rich heritage is coupled with its location near some of the island's most famed beaches. And just a 25 minute drive east of the airport, Domes Noruz is the perfect spot to enjoy both.

Part of Marriott's Autograph Collection, the adult-only boutique hotel is a hidden gem built literally on one of Chania's beautiful beaches. From the moment we arrived at the resort and were greeted with a specially brewed 'wellness juice', it felt as though we'd been whisked into another dimension. This is particularly the case thanks to the otherworldly design of the resort, which looks like it came straight out of *Star Wars* (and I mean that in the best possible way) thanks to its desert-shade domes.

The wonderful design carries on through the selection of apartments on offer, from the poolside plunge pools of the Sublime Loft to the private houses of the Ultimate Haven. We stayed in the Wellness Lodge, a two-storey loft complete with two terraces to enjoy a view of the sea and looking on towards the island of Agioi Theodoros.

It had all the amenities you could want from a room, as well as some innovative extras including mood lighting





PHOTOS BY HEINZ TROLL

TRIP NOTES
Rooms at Domes Noruz start from €146 (approx £129) per night based on two sharing, on a room-only basis.
domesnoruz.com

adjustments and a slightly perplexing pillow menu. The highlight of the space was the terrace hot tub, which was the perfect spot to relax in privacy with a glass of red wine and enjoy the stunning surrounds at sunset. In fact my partner had a hard time getting me off of the terrace, as I was completely transfixed by the view and the utter sense of peace it evoked. And this for me was the crux of what is so great about Domes Noruz – it's a perfect place to switch off from outside stresses and settle into tranquillity and relaxation. It was wonderful to spend a few days meandering between the two pools, down to the stunning beach, with a cocktail in one hand and a book in the other.

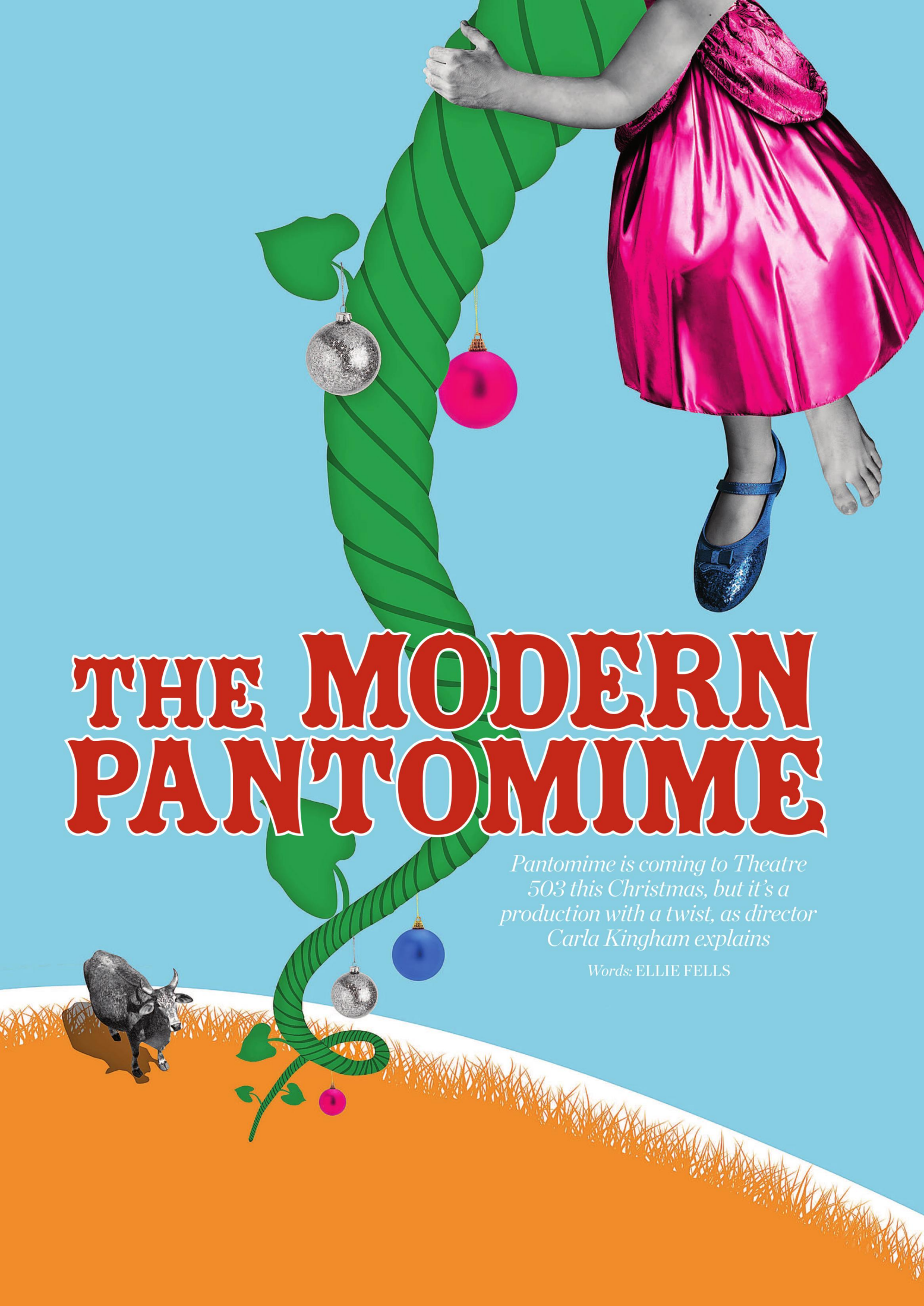
And when a bit of late season rain set in, the Soma Spa had us covered. We enjoyed 15 minute massages with Elemis products that we could have kept enjoying for a whole lot longer. But the draw of the spa pool, hammam, sauna, as well as complimentary juice and fruit in the main spa was also a bit too much to resist.

This is a resort undoubtedly all about relaxation, but there's also very little excuse to not take advantage of the fitness facilities, with a small but well-equipped gym as well as daily classes and activities. One of the highlights of my trip was my morning yoga and pilates class listening to the waves crash on the beach (even when our zen was gatecrashed by one of the area's absolutely adorable stray kittens). And if you're feeling a bit adventurous you can head like we did to the nearby beach to hire boards and enjoy a morning surfing – attempting to in my case.

To balance the activity, there are unlimited opportunities to enjoy a little bit of overindulgence with the resort's Zeen restaurant, which we frequented for a buffet breakfast that is well worth it and lunch enjoyed on the beach. At night the place transforms for fine dining under the watchful eyes of Dionissis Pliatsikas, who has also crafted great dinner options – my meal of a divine homemade bread basket, tender Aegean Croaker and even a chocolate-covered Cretan banana was a full-on feast.

If you fancy getting out, there are a few local restaurants which offer up some typical Greek fare and a short trip into Chania will give you an abundance of options. The Old Town is a 20 minute bus or taxi drive away, so you can enjoy the rich heritage of the centre as well as its lively restaurant and bar culture. Head far into the back streets and away from the tourist traps and you'll find wonderful boutique art shops, as well as unique places to enjoy some Greek salad and an obligatory glass of Raki whatever time of day it is. Our only regret was not hiring a car and making the most of the beautiful island, but if you do there are plenty of places to enjoy nearby like the Samaria Gorge and the pink sands of Elafonissi Beach.

As an escape from reality, you won't get much better than Domes Noruz for a relaxing spot to enjoy the sun and the sea, as well as the nearby culture. And during these long winter months, I can guarantee I'll be thinking about that sunset for a long time. ■



THE MODERN PANTOMIME

Pantomime is coming to Theatre 503 this Christmas, but it's a production with a twist, as director Carla Kingham explains

Words: ELLIE FELLS

Theatre 503 in Battersea is known for its championing of young writers and for its celebration of new and modern performance. This Christmas will be no different, since their pantomime for 2018 will be *Cinderella and the Beanstalk.* As its name suggests, it is a wonderful amalgamation of all our favourite stories – but it isn't just the plot which will be a twist on the classic fairytale.

The play was originally written by comedy trio The Sleeping Trees, but this year the pantomime has been put under the direction of Carla Kingham, who is putting her own spin on it. She explains: 'The Trees have had so much fun with it, but Lisa Spirling, the artistic director, and I just thought "let's get some brilliant, funny women to have a go!"' Where in the past the pantomime had been performed solely by The Sleeping Trees themselves, who are all men, Kingham's production will feature an all female cast and an all female production team. The actual storyline will remain more or less the same as when the Trees performed it and, without giving away any spoilers, audiences are in for a treat. 'The basic plots of *Cinderella* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* have been pushed together, so you've got the traditional *Cinderella* story, but with a brilliant subplot whereby the Fairy Godmother has a long lost love who is Jack, and he's stuck at the top of the beanstalk,' Kingham explains.

Although it will retain many of the typical features that audiences have come to know and love – 'Oh no it isn't' and 'It's behind you' – Kingham's version of *Cinderella and the Beanstalk* turns pantomime traditions on

Carla Kingham

their head. 'When The Sleeping Trees wrote it, they were playing around with these traditions, such as men dressing up as women,' she says. However, in the 21st century, the connotations of things like cross-dressing and male and female stereotypes have changed dramatically. 'We've gone beyond cross-dressing as a society, so we asked ourselves, "where can the fun be found in reinventing these things for a modern audience?"' Kingham explains. 'There will also be a really important meta-aspect to the show whereby the women will constantly be dropping out of character, and the actors will have as much of a storyline as the pantomime itself,' Kingham adds.

However, Kingham is quick to note that her decision to use an all female team doesn't have to be read as a big political statement. 'If you do put three women on stage to play out a pantomime, there's no reason why that should be radical – we've had three men doing it for the past five years! This isn't political – it's just the way it is now.' For Kingham, this version is simply the pantomime tradition reinventing itself to remain in-keeping with the 21st century. Crucially, the show will keep a universal, ageless appeal. 'There's something in there for everyone, so it's a real crowd pleaser.'

There is certainly something special about that crowd-pleasing aspect of the pantomime. Where else would you see rows of children totally transfixed, without an iPad in sight? 'They are completely chaotic and freeing, and I think it's so rare for kids to have an experience where they can go into a theatre and scream and shout and have people throwing sweets at them,' Kingham comments. She adds that key to a pantomime's success is that it speaks to children on their level. 'The kids rule the roost!' she laughs. There's no denying that adults love a good pantomime too, and for many of us a visit to the theatre will always be an institutional part of Christmas. 'There's a nostalgia there isn't there? It takes you back to the excitement of the festive season when you were younger,' Kingham says. 'A pantomime throws all rules out the window and for a couple of hours you can just escape.'

Pantomimes have been a part of our culture for as long as we can remember, and this tradition doesn't seem to be lessening any time soon. 'I think they will always be magical,' Kingham muses. As Theatre 503's *Cinderella and the Beanstalk* illustrates though, their stereotypical structures are not set in stone. 'I think they will continue to grow and change shape as we grow and change shape as a nation,' Kingham reflects. However, for her, and probably for most people, the fun and hilarity of a pantomime should always remain at its heart. 'We need to keep finding ways to have fun, especially when times are difficult, because ultimately that's what a pantomime is all about,' she says.

Kingham's modern take is a shining example of the pantomime remaining as joyful, but as necessary, as ever: we all need to laugh, shout and have sweets thrown at us every now and then. ■

Cinderella and the Beanstalk will be performed from 7 December. Find out more at theatre503.com

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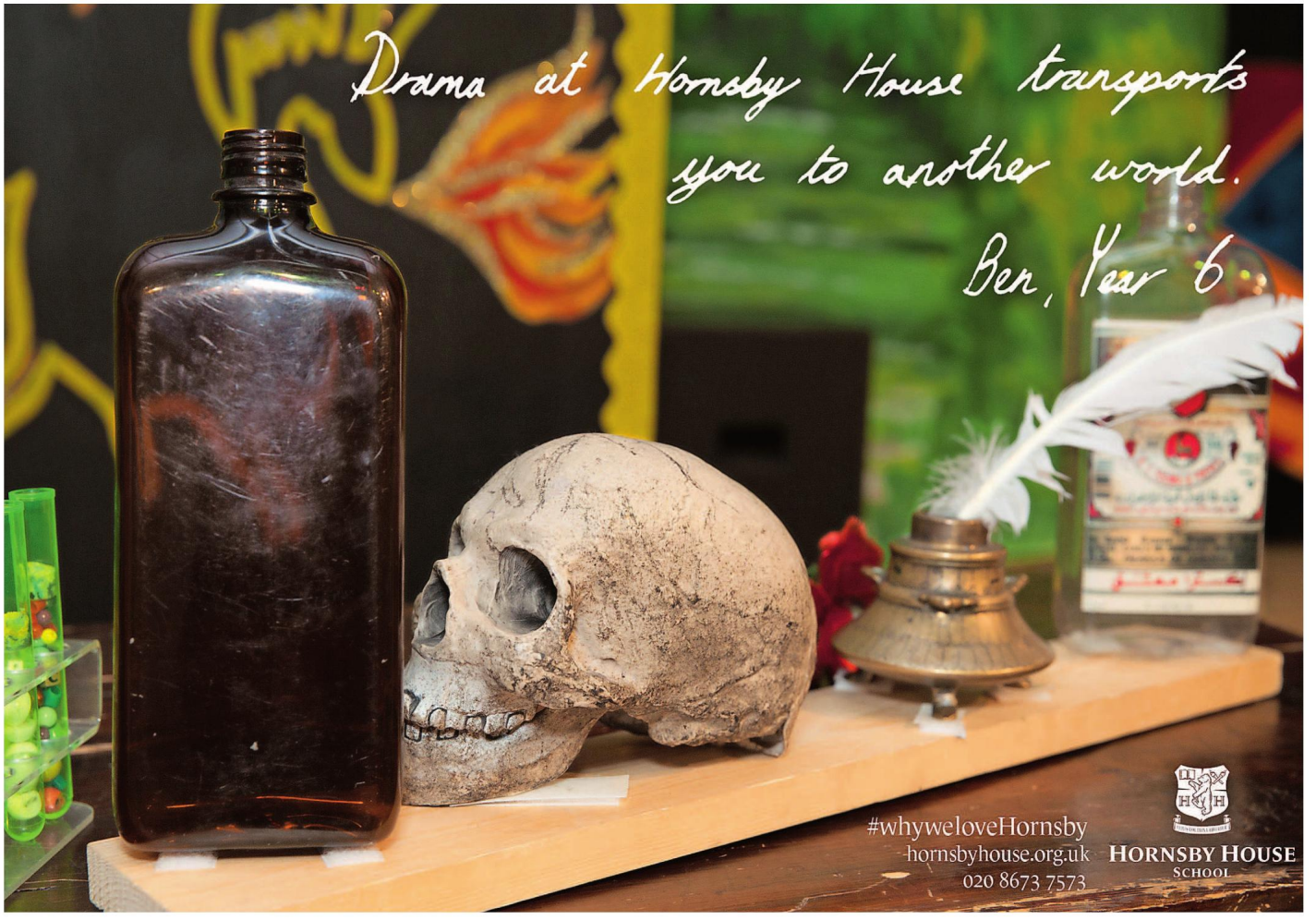

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Should we still teach children the true traditions and values of the festive season?

Words: ALISHA DAVIS

Everyone loves Christmas – children even more so. There's something about this day that when looked through a child's eyes seems almost magical. It's a day where families come together, giving presents to one another and enjoying a hearty meal. But are we allowing the values and traditions of Christmas to be overshadowed by material expectations? The need to have the next best thing seems to be overtaking the teachings to children of values that have been instilled in many of us. But how can we make sure these traditions don't disappear?

If you ask any child what they love about Christmas Day, answers will most definitely include receiving gifts. However, the older generation's answers may well be different, with many stating an enjoyable day with loved ones is what they look forward to the most. Teaching these festive values is simple and can be tailored to individual family needs. Mention that church bells are rung at midnight to signal the beginning of the Christmas celebration and at the start of midnight mass, which is a hugely important to the Catholic and Christian faith.

Teaching about traditions doesn't have to be limited to just your own. Discovering how other cultures and religions celebrate the festive season can make it even more interesting for your child. Discuss how other religions have different celebratory festivals such as the Hindu festival Diwali and the Muslim holiday Eid.

Schools around the UK will undoubtedly stage their own nativity scene, so this is the perfect time to learn how it's celebrated in other countries. In Italy, for example, the famous nativity crib scene is hugely important and they wait to put the figure of the baby Jesus in the scene on Christmas Eve. When your child comes home with a part in the traditional nativity play, tell them why their part is important. Something so simple helps keep the traditions alive.

Then there is food (which many will also undoubtedly link to Christmas). Describe to your little ones how in Norway their version of Christmas pudding is a special bread called 'Julekake'. Or perhaps mention how a grand market is held on Christmas Eve in Jamaica, and why in Japan KFC has become such a tradition.

'When your child comes home with a part in the traditional nativity play, tell them why their part is important'

It is our responsibility to ensure we are instilling priceless values and traditions, so allow your children to fully discover the true essence of this holiday. It may even make you open your eyes to the true meaning of Christmas.

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COUNTRY IN THE CITY

Ever wondered if you could replicate the feel of a country manor or perfect country style cottage in the heart of London? Well, now you can with this country house in Wimbledon. Savills are selling a rarely available doubled fronted detached seven bedroom Victorian house with fantastic proportions, off street parking and a pretty mature garden. The property features excellently proportioned rooms, some of which have far reaching views of the City. Kenilworth Avenue is a sought after address in the popular area of Wimbledon Park.

Kenilworth Avenue is on the market for £2.695m; 1 High Street, Wimbledon SW19 5DX; savills.co.uk

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

London living over the festive period is hard to beat

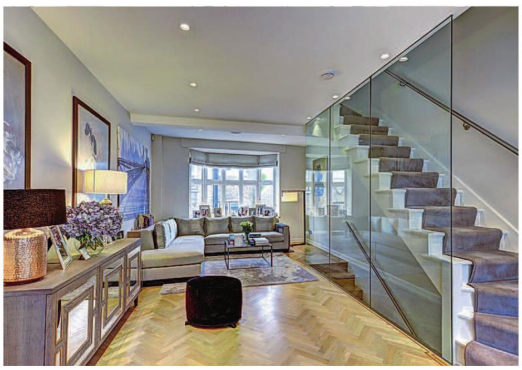
Words: FIONA BRANDHORST

As the festive season begins, the appeal of living in the capital takes centre stage. A home at The Mansion by Clivedale at the heart of the action in uber-cool Marylebone has it all. The residents of this boutique collection of 23 luxury apartments will adore the hand-picked, in-house services via the 24/7 concierge. The Queen's grocer Fortnum & Mason will deliver all the ingredients for Christmas lunch and there's a chauffeur-driven Bentley for local trips if a smattering of snow threatens to stop play.

Designed with the traditional redbrick Marylebone mansion house in mind complete with contemporary fireplaces, there's plenty of in-house relaxing at The Mansion including a 25-metre subterranean swimming pool and treatment rooms with on-call therapists from wellbeing and luxe spa brand Bamford. Just seven apartments remain with prices from £4.95m.

In a quiet square off Kensington High Street and close to the Albert Hall is De Vere Cottage, a period three bedroom terraced home with a contemporary interior arranged around a secluded courtyard. It features the ultimate Christmas guest pleaser of an impressive spiral wine cellar quirkily built into the kitchen floor. Perfectly

ABOVE: The roof terrace at The Liberty Building, and inside



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Exterior of De Vere Cottages, Lillie Square, No 3 Canalside Walk, inside and out of The Mansion, and inside De Vere Cottages

positioned for last minute shopping and spacious enough for overnight guests with two reception rooms and three bathrooms, the mews house is available through Hamptons International for £2.95m.

London's first floating pocket park at the heart of Merchant Square is a few minutes' walk from the refurbished Paddington station and will be the focus of outdoor Christmas events for residents living in the new apartments lining a stretch of the Regent's Canal. Free movie nights, a gin bar and an increasing number of eateries are putting this well-connected enclave on the map. The final phase of apartments at No 3 Canalside Walk, best viewed from a hired Go Boat while enjoying a glass or two of fizz, has just been launched. The residents' rooftop Observatory features a lounge with amazing views of the capital, an outdoor gym and terrace. Prices start from £1.2m for a two bedroom apartment.

West Brompton Crossing with pop up shops and restaurants will create a further buzz for residents moving into Lillie Square in time for Christmas. The residents-only clubhouse is designed to rival the finest five-star hotel offering a private dining room where residents can store vintage wines, a swish lounge and BYO bar, cinema room ideal for Christmas karaoke nights or an intimate screening of *White Christmas*. The deluxe health spa features a swimming pool, steam room, sauna and treatment rooms including one for spray tans.

The newly launched three-bedroom penthouse at the top of One Lillie Square on the 14th and 15th floor with an expansive terrace on the 16th floor, offers impressive views from west to east of London's skyline. Prices at Lillie Square start from £820,000 for a one bedroom apartment with the penthouse priced at £8.9m.

The Liberty Building at Limeharbour is three stops from Canary Wharf where Christmas is celebrated in style with an outdoor ice rink, Winter Fashion Weekend, five malls of shops, restaurants and an Everyman Cinema with a curated film schedule. Each of the apartments in the flagship 26-floor tower from Telford Homes offers a private balcony and views towards Canary Wharf or The O2 and Greenwich. The penthouse is across the 24th and 25th floors with a huge roof terrace overlooking Canary Wharf, priced at £2.5m. A 24-hour concierge and residents-only gym are included with only 34 apartments left for sale with prices from £785,000 and completions this Christmas.

Present shopping and eating out along East Dulwich's Lordship Lane comes into its own at Christmas. Property In is selling a three bedroom Edwardian apartment, within a few minutes' walk of the action, boasting a stunning roof terrace perfect for cosy drinks parties and a bird's eye view of the capital's New Year's Eve fireworks. Offers in excess of £650,000. Merry Christmas! r

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MY DREAM HOME

Ben Nyarko of Andrews in Streatham Vale tells us why this property is so great

Trent Road, SW2: This unique family home boasts so many original features and is ideally situated in the heart of bustling Brixton.

1. WHY IT'S A GREAT BUY

This property oozes so many wish-list features; central location, flexible living options and plenty of period features!

Boasting an impressive six bedrooms and flexible living accommodation over three floors, this property comes with the added benefit of a basement which could be converted for additional living space. Plus, it's located less than a mile from three underground and three mainline train stations!

2. THE WOW FACTOR

So often, large Victorian properties have been adapted and converted and in doing so have lost the very features that make them so special. Not so here. Intricate cornicing and cast-iron fire places appear in many of the rooms, whilst sitting alongside a modern and homely kitchen.

3. WHO IT WOULD SUIT

The size and location of this home make it ideal for the family purchaser.

It is within easy reach of several well regarded primary and secondary schools; has excellent transport connections to central London; is near to several sports and leisure facilities and has an increasingly strong food and drink scene on its doorstep. Its layout also makes it ideal for anyone wishing to work from home.

4. MY FAVOURITE ROOM

This is a tough one as the rooms are all so individual and each comes with its own vibe.

5. WHY YOU SHOULD BUY IT

Why wouldn't you buy this property?! It's full of character for aficionados of period details whilst still offering scope for further enhancement for those wishing to add their own stamp to a home. All this and it's located in an undeniably vibrant area!

For more information on the property, visit andrewsonline.co.uk; 8 Streatham Vale, Streatham, SW16 5TE; 020 8764 8445

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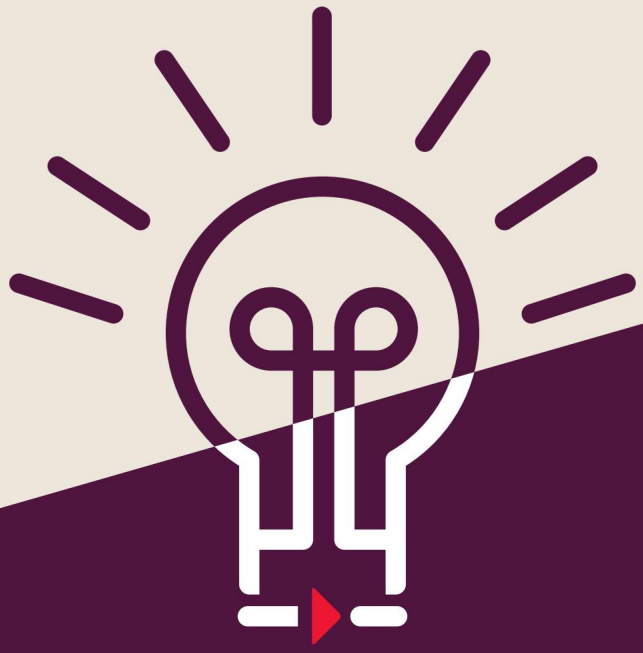

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Balham

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Boundaries Road,
Balham
SW12
£1,200,000

Located 0.2 miles from the links of Balham station, this attractive mid terraced home offers the perfect opportunity for any purchaser to make their own mark. The dual aspect reception room has been equipped with kitchen facilities and has period features typical of the age of build including a bay window and sash windows. Energy Efficiency Rating: G

Cambray Road,
Balham
SW12
£700,000

Located in one of the most sought after roads in the Hyde Farm area, this beautiful two bedroom, first floor garden maisonette benefits from an attractive living room, a kitchen/dining room, two bedrooms and own garden which extends to 35'1. Energy Efficiency Rating: D

Balham Sales 020 8108 7268

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Southfields

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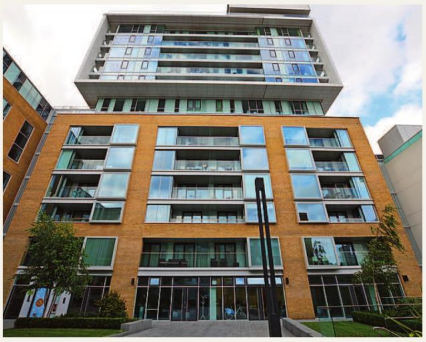
Astonville Street,
London
SW18
£1,050,000

A five bedroom family home situated on the popular Southfields 'Grid' and benefitting from a 70' rear garden and no onward chain. Energy Efficiency Rating: C



Beacon Tower,
London
SW18
£590,000

A stunning twelfth floor apartment with private balcony and picturesque views. Energy Efficiency Rating: B

Southfields Sales 020 8003 4764

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Putney

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Hannay House,
Scott Avenue,
Putney SW15
£520,000

Located 0.6 miles between Southfields and East Putney stations. Situated on the second floor and its South-Easterly facing windows make the most of natural daylight. On entering the hallway you will find integrated storage cupboards. The open-plan kitchen/living room is large enough to fit a dining table. There are two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Energy Efficiency Rating: B

Hawkesbury Road,
Putney, London
SW15
£850,000

Located within the Dover House Conservation Area, the property has a large front garden extending to 43'. The ground floor offers a reception room, dining room, separate kitchen and WC to the rear. Upstairs there are three double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The second floor has been converted to spacious loft room with en-suite shower. Energy Efficiency Rating: D

Putney Sales 020 8108 7010

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pickwick estates

EBSWORTH STREET

£675,000 OIEO

Stylish and elegantly refurbished to an impeccable standard is this superb freehold 3-bedroom Victorian half house, located on this popular residential street close to Honor Oak Park station. The house has an imposing red brick facade and a small front garden shielding it from the street. The ground floor has two reception rooms and a kitchen, all the rooms on the ground floor have good ceiling heights, the windows have all been replaced with wooden double-glazed sash windows and all the floors are the original floorboards that have been meticulously stripped, sanded and vanished to create a warm sturdy floor underfoot. There are two reception rooms with the rear reception room opening to the kitchen creating a lovely kitchen dining space. Double doors lead out to the side return that is slabbed in beautiful natural York stone. The garden is an oasis of calm with uniformed horizontal fencing on both sides hugging a slightly raised deck with a centre planter that can also be used a seating bench around it for when having guests around for a BBQ. At the rear of the garden is a boxed in flower bed to add some foliage. Upstairs on the first floor are two equal size bedrooms and a luxurious family bathroom, once again all the windows have been replaced for wooden double glazed sash windows and both bedrooms have restored cast iron radiators. The top floor is a converted loft space which houses a lovely master bedroom suite. The bedroom has luxuriously thick carpets and nice views over the rooftops with the London skyline in the distance. The lavish en-suite bathroom has been fully tiled in hexagonal tiles and offers a large bath as well as a separate shower enclosure. Ebsworth St is approximately 5 mins walk to Honor Oak Park station where there are regular services to London Bridge (around 15mins) as well as London Overground services to Shoreditch and Highbury and Islington. The trendy high street boasts a range of independent shops, cafes, bars, a deli and several highly-recommended restaurants. Nearby green leafy open spaces can be found at Blythe Hill Fields, One Tree Hill and Horniman gardens all offering fantastic views of the London Skyline.

MARMORA ROAD, SE22

£1,750,000 FREEHOLD SOLD STC

Be prepared to be completely bowled over by this fabulous detached 7-bedroom Victorian family home which has been meticulously presented to the highest of standards and offered to the market chain free. Located on a quiet back water twixt East Dulwich and Honor Oak this property enjoys the benefits of both areas, surrounded by green open spaces and good transportation links. Being double fronted the house is very imposing from the road yet welcomes you to come in through a beautifully manicured front garden and raised steps to the front door. The house offers huge rooms throughout, period charm coupled with a contemporary twist and a beautifully landscaped sunny rear garden which has a secret gate at the back leading to Brenchley gardens. Through the large front door is a huge central hallway housing the staircase and giving access to all the ground floor rooms, all the rooms offer an abundance of period features such as fireplaces, cornicing, sash windows and high ceilings. There are two reception rooms on this floor and a separate WC, a formal double reception overlooks the front and rear gardens through large sash windows, on the other side of the house is an enormous kitchen dining room that spans the whole length of the house. This beautiful family home is conveniently located close to green open spaces of Peckham Rye Common and Horniman Gardens with its famous museum is just over the hill. It is incredibly well connected by local transport links and a wealth of restaurants, cafes and boutiques nearby in Peckham Rye, Honor Oak Park and Lordship Lane. Honor Oak Park station is very close (0.8 miles) with Overground services to Canary Wharf and National Rail to London Bridge. There are also numerous bus routes that will whisk you into town.

Jacksons

Carminia Road, SW17

£1,450,000 FREEHOLD

FIVE BEDROOMS, REFURBISHED, PRIVATE GARDEN

Set over three floors, a fully extended five bedroom family home with three bathrooms. There are two large reception rooms which have maintained many original features. The reception rooms lead through to a large open plan kitchen with bi-folding doors opening onto a private garden.

Carminia Road is a popular residential road located in the desirable Heaver Estate of Balham. The mainline and underground stations are close by and a vast array of shops, bars and restaurants, energy rating e.

BALHAM **020 8675 6565** | www.jacksonsestateagents.com/balham

Jacksons

Freshford Street, SW18

£1,150,000 FREEHOLD

FOUR BEDROOMS, LARGE GARDEN, TWO BATHROOMS

This four bedroom mid terrace Edwardian house offers excellent entertaining space. The property has a spacious and well presented main reception room, a kitchen which is open plan to the dining area and a second reception area. There are bi-folding doors leading out to the landscaped garden.

Located on a popular road in Earlsfield, the property is close to Earlsfield mainline station and Garratt Lane with its vast array of shops, bars and restaurants, energy rating c.

EARLSFIELD **020 8971 7070** | www.jacksonsestateagents.com/earlsfield

Jacksons

Solon Road, SW2

£1,100,000 FREEHOLD

VICTORIAN MID TERRACE, GARDEN, EXTENSION POTENTIAL (STPP)

A four bedroom house that has been extended by the current owners and has further room for extension (STPP). There is a reception room and a kitchen/breakfast room with bi-folding doors leading out to the south west facing garden. The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe and en suite bathroom.

Situated on a residential street and ideally located for easy access to the many restaurants, shops and cafés of Clapham and Brixton. Clapham North and Brixton stations also close by, energy rating d.

CLAPHAM **020 8875 7995** | www.jacksonsestateagents.com/clapham

Jacksons

Tranmere Road, SW18

£3,500 PER MONTH

FIVE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, EDWARDIAN HOUSE, EXCELLENT LOCATION

An impressive five bedroom Edwardian house arranged over three floors. The property has a beautiful open plan kitchen/dining room with bi-folding doors leading onto a garden with artificial grass, perfect for the family. Ideally located close to Earlsfield Station as well as the local amenities of Garratt Lane, energy rating d.

EARLSFIELD **020 8971 7070** | www.jacksonsestateagents.com/earlsfield

Broomhill Road, SW18

£3,200 PER MONTH

FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE, GARDEN, GARAGE

This four bedroom house has a private rear garden, a drive for two cars and a garage. Arranged over three floors, there is a kitchen/reception room, a further reception room and two bathrooms. The property is located close to Wandsworth Town, with all its shops, restaurants and bars, energy rating d.

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A beautifully presented ground floor apartment with two double bedrooms. There are two bathrooms, a garden and an off-street parking space. This attractive property is situated within easy reach of both Streatham Hill and Streatham train stations. Tooting Bec Common is also close by, energy rating d.

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Ashington Road, Fulham SW6

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1,959 sq ft (182 sq m) | EPC rating D
Drawing room | Kitchen/dining room | Three bedrooms | Three bathrooms | Cloakroom | Garden

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*After an offer is accepted by the Landlord, which is subject to contract and acceptable references, the following charges and fees will be payable before the commencement of the tenancy: Preparation of Tenancy Agreement £222 (Inc VAT), References per Tenant £54 (Inc VAT), a deposit – usually between 6-10 weeks of the agreed rent. Any rent advertised is pure rent and does not include any additional services such as council tax, water or utility charges.

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- Collecting from school
- Travelling home
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- Preparing meals
- Preparing for bedtime

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